MARVEL

MARVEL ADVENTURES™

THE EVOLUTION STARTS HERE

TRAVEL BACK TO THE MONKEY-VERSE WITH FOUR THRILLING TALES OF BAD PUNS AND BIG GUNS!

- **Branded a traitor to the entire Ape Universe, the masked (monkey) marvel Speedball is now exiled on a bizarre Planet of the Humans! Can he make it in Man's World?**
- **As the irrepressible Spider-Monkey tries to create a better world for all ape-kind, top ape Captain America stands in his way. Will the webbed wonder survive?**
- **When teenager Roy Reyna finds he can transform into the super-powered simian Ape X, it's more fun than a barrel of monkeys…until H.A.M.M.E.R. agents capture him!**
- **In a story never before seen in print, the Ape Universe's greatest minds and leaders come together to save their world in a secret council known as — the Prime Eight!**

Collecting *Marvel Apes: Speedball, Amazing Spider-Monkey, Grunt Line* and *Prime Eight* — written by Karl Kesel and Tom Peyer; and illustrated by Reilly Brown, Chad Hardin, Todd Nauck and Ramon Bachs.

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MARVEL APES

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MARVEL APES

THE EVOLUTION STARTS HERE

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THE AWESOME ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES!

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SPEEDBALL

Greetings, reader, I am the Watcher and this is what you may have missed in the epic mini series – MARVEL APES!

Marty Blank, the villain-turned-hero-turned-villain-turned-hero known as THE GIBBON, without purpose, volunteered to be a test-monkey for the brilliant young Dr. Fiona Fitzhugh at State university, only to find themselves trapped in the Ape-Verse!

There they met heroes the likes of SPEEDBALL and APE X, two younger heroes out to make a name for themselves in a world of Ape-Vengers. Speedball in particular took to Gibbon and Fiona, protecting them from the truth of the monkey world...

...that its top ape, Captain America had been replaced by a VAMPIRE! Cap tried to play the heroes of Monkhattan against each other, but was defeated when Speedball, Fiona and the Gibbon found the true Captain America! But the victory was not without loss – as Ape X seemed to die in the final confrontation.

Speedball and his new friends escaped back to your human world – and with few options, the young Speedball sought out the Avengers and joined the Fifty State Initiative....

STATE UNIVERSITY

WOW.

YOU...YOU REBUILT THE *DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY*, FIONA!

OUR LITTLE *SURPRISE* FOR YOU, SPEEDBALL!

AND I'M *VERY* SURPRISED!

NOW YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE *MONKEYVERSE*, ROBBIE-BUDDY!

YOU CAN GO *HOME!*

YEAH, BUT--

LOOK, YOU GAVE IT YOUR *BEST SHOT*, MY FURRY FRIEND--BUT WE *BOTH* KNOW YOU'LL *NEVER* FIT INTO THE *HUMAN* WORLD!

EVEN IF FOLKS COULD GET PAST THE WHOLE *TALKING MONKEY* THING--YOU'RE STILL *SPEEDBALL!*

NOT EXACTLY A MASKED MARVEL PEOPLE HAVE FOND OR PLEASANT MEMORIES OF!

I GUESS...

THEN I GUESS YOU BETTER *GET GOING!*

MISS YOU *ALREADY!*

AH, FIONA, I THOUGHT HE'D *NEVER* LEAVE!

NOW... WHERE *WERE* WE?

I BELIEVE YOU ARE DUE FOR A THOROUGH AND *EXHAUSTIVE* PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, *MR. BLANK.*

SIGH. THE THINGS I DO FOR *SCIENCE...*

THIS IS SO BEYOND GREAT.

I'VE BEEN GONE SINCE--WHAT?--OOKTOBER. SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.

ALMOST FORGOT HOW MUCH FRESHER THE AIR IS HERE--HOW GREEN IT SMELLS.

AND THE SOUNDS--NOT HARSH AND ECHOING, BUT SOFTENED BY THE RUSTLE OF LEAVES.

YEAH, I'LL TAKE MONKHATTAN--ANY DAY!

THEY MISSED ME, TOO.

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY--IT'S SPEEDBALL!

CALL THE DAILY HOWLER! STOP THE PRESSES!

WORD TRAVELS FAST...

IT IS HIM!

KNEW HE'D BE BACK! HE'S ONE GREAT APE, THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAID! KNOWS HIS DUTY!

...MAYBE TOO FAST!

GEEP--!

THINK YOU CAN SWING INTO TOWN WITHOUT ME FINDING OUT?!

THOOMM!

YOU SHOULD KNOW ME *BETTER* THAN THAT, SPEEDBALL.

APE X!

YOU MANGY *MAGILLA!* THOUGHT YOU WERE, LIKE, THE *ABONOBONATION!* ALMOST SCARED ME TO *DEATH!*

WOULDN'T WANT *THAT.*

WAS *HOPING* I'D SEE YOU AGAIN, LITTLE BUDDY.

THAT'S WHAT *EVERYONE* WAS HOPING.

SO...NO ONE'S *MAD* AT ME, ROY?

NO ONE THINKS SOME SILLY THING LIKE, OH...I *BETRAYED* THE WHOLE PLANET BY HELPING THE HUMANS ESCAPE?

NO, ROBBIE. NO ONE THINKS THAT...

HNK!

ARM, BIG GUY-- ARM'S KIND OF *ATTACHED!*

...WE KNOW YOU'RE A TRAITOR.

AND YOU KNOW THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO KILL YOU.

OOK.

BAD DAY AT THE BANANA FACTORY

KARL KESEL	RAMON BACHS	JAVIER MEÑA GUERRERO	VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA	STEVE WACKER	THOMAS BRENNAN	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY
WRITER	ARTIST	COLORIST	LETTERER	BANANA BOY	TOP BANANA	500-LB. GORILLA	501-LB. GORILLA

NO--! LET GO! LET GOOO-OOO-OOK!

IT'S OKAY, ROBBIE...

...IT'S JUST ME.

YOU WERE BAD DREAMING.

FAHNBULLA EDDY. *GORILLA GIRL.* CAN CHANGE INTO A GIRL GORILLA. NOT THE MOST *IMAGINATIVE* CODENAME, MAYBE, BUT *SOLID.* SHE'S AN INITIATIVE CADET-IN-TRAINING.

MAKE THAT *FELLOW* CADET.

KLEK

WELL, SINCE *MONKEY-BOY* WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO WAKE UP EVERYONE *EARLY*, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU WANNABE *WORLD-SAVERS* CAN DO BEFORE *CHOW!*

MASKS ON, PEOPLE!

CAMP HAMMOND BARRACKS

THANKS, SPIT-BALL! LIKE TASKMASTER NEEDS *MORE* REASONS TO RUN US THROUGH THE *WRINGER!*

LAST TIME I LOOKED, O'GRADY, BAD GUYS DIDN'T ATTACK JUST DURING *BUSINESS HOURS!*

AND LAST I LOOKED THERE WASN'T ANY *INITIATIVE: GUATEMALA*, SO WHY SHOULD WE PUT UP WITH MONKEY-BOY'S NIGHTLY *JUNGLE JABBER?*

SAME REASON WE PUT UP WITH YOUR BULL--

'SOKAY, BULLA. HE'S GOTTA DO WORSE THAN *THAT* TO GET UNDER MY FUR...

ERIC O'GRADY IS THE NEWEST ANT-MAN. HE CAN SHRINK, BUT I THINK HIS REAL SUPER-POWER IS BEING UNBELIEVABLY ANNOYING.

AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE SMELL!

HE'S GOOD AT IT.

I KNOW IT'S NOT HIS FAULT--AND GOD KNOWS SHOWERING DOESN'T HELP!

WE ALL LEARNED THE HARD WAY THE ONLY THING SMELLS WORSE THAN A MONKEY IS A WET--

TOO GOOD.

SWEEE--!

MISSED ME! MISSED ME! NOW YOU GOTTA KISS--

WELL, NOT ME, THAT'S FOR SURE! MAYBE YOUR GORILLA GIRLFRIEND...?

WHAT IS THIS--THIRD GRADE?

I'M NOT HIS--!

KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, O'GRADY? SHRINKAGE!

AND YOURS IS YOU KEEP STICKING YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, EDDY!

WHAT? BUT I...I'M NOT--

DON'T GIVE ME *THAT!* I'VE BEEN HERE ALMOST *TWO WEEKS,* AND FROM *DAY ONE* YOU'VE ACTED LIKE WE HAD SOME SORT OF *APE ALLIANCE* SO WE WOULDN'T GET VOTED OUT OF THE *JUNGLE!*

WELL, *NEWSFLASH--* WE'RE *NOTHING* ALIKE! AND I DON'T JUST MEAN WE'RE DIFFERENT *SPECIES* OR FROM DIFFERENT *PLANETS...*

I'VE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE *CAPTAIN AMERICA! WOLVERINE!* I'VE SAVED THE WORLD-- *LOTS* OF TIMES!

YOU--YOU WERE IN A *FREAK SHOW!*

SO YOU CAN CHANGE INTO A TALKING *GORILLA?* BIG DEAL! WHERE I COME FROM, THAT'S CALLED *AVERAGE!*

THIS HAS GONE *FAR ENOUGH...*

NO.

NO, I DON'T THINK IT *HAS...*

YOU WANT TO TALK A *REAL* SUPER-SIMIAN? *APE X* WAS THE BEST PARTNER I EVER HAD...THE BEST FRIEND I COULD EVER *HOPE* FOR!

YOU AND ME-- WE'RE NOT *PARTNERS!* WE'RE NOT EVEN REALLY *TEAMMATES!*

AND I SURE WOULDN'T SAY WE'RE *FRIENDS...*

SPOING!
BWONNG!
TOING!
NGH!
HEH.
PERFECT.
UHHH. OW! WHUHH...?
SORRY, BULLA-- DEEPLY.
YOU... DID THAT ON PURPOSE? IT WAS ALL AN ACT?
ONLY WAY I COULD GET NEAR THE JERK.
TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE...
IT'S OKAY, RITCHIE. HE DIDN'T MEAN A WORD. NOT REALLY.
YEAH. SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF THAT GOING AROUND.
NEVER HAD MUCH STOMACH FOR DOUBLE-TALK AND DECEPTION.
BUT THEN HOW CAN YA EXPECT AN ANIMAL TO ACT LIKE A MAN?

CAMP HAMMOND RECEPTION AREA

--COULDN'T *BELIEVE* THE NEWS! CAME *RIGHT AWAY!*

ROBBIE-- *HERE!* THE WAY HE *WAS!*

I'M... I'M AFRAID YOU'VE BEEN *MISINFORMED*, MR. AND MRS. BALDWIN. YOUR SON ISN'T--

KRAKK!!

FLINGIN'...

...FECES.

FUNNY THING--I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE, BUT I KNOW WHO THEY ARE *INSTANTLY.*

MADDY AND *JUSTIN BALDWIN*--THE HUMAN SPEEDBALL'S *PARENTS.*

A...A *CHIMP?*

WAS THAT EMAIL JUST SOME... *SICK JOKE?*

DRESSING A...*MONKEY MASCOT* UP LIKE *SPEEDBALL?!* TO WHAT-- KICK AROUND LIKE A *SOCCER BALL?* LORD KNOWS I'M *NOT PROUD* OF MY SON, BUT...

HAVE YOU NO *DECENCY?*

NOT NEARLY ENOUGH MOST TIMES, SIR.

BUT THIS IS *NO JOKE*-- AND HE'S NO *MASCOT.*

THIS SPEEDBALL'S FROM *ANOTHER DIMENSION,* AND HE'S ONE OF THE MOST CLEVER, RESOURCEFUL HEROES I'VE EVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN.

WELL--THAT CHANGES *EVERYTHING*, DOESN'T IT, DEAR?

YES. AS IF OUR SON ENDING HIS DAYS AS SPEEDBALL IN *DISGRACE* WASN'T ENOUGH--NOW HE'LL BE MADE A *LAUGHINGSTOCK*, AS WELL!

REST ASSURED YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM MY OFFICE. HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A DISTRICT ATTORNEY SCORNED!

EXCUSE ME.

EXCUSE ME, BUT... LOOK, I'M NO EXPERT AT *ALTERNATE REALITIES*, BUT WHERE I COME FROM MY MOM IS A *BEAUTIFUL* WOMAN...A WONDERFUL *ACTRESS*...

...AND MY DAD IS A TOUGH, TAKE-NO-PRISONERS *DISTRICT ATTORNEY*.

THEY TOOK ME TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FOR MY 5TH BIRTHDAY.

TH-THAT'S TRUE...

R-ROBBIE?

NOT *YOUR* ROBBIE, BUT...THAT'S MY *NAME*, YES.

OUR ROBBIE... OUR *ONLY SON*...

HE *CHANGED*. MAYBE IT'D BE *EASIER* IF HE HAD BECOME A *MONKEY!*

YOU... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM...

NO. AND MAYBE NEITHER DO *YOU*.

ALL I KNOW IS EVEN IF YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND* OR *AGREE* WITH WHAT HE'S DOING, HE ISN'T TRYING TO MAKE YOU *ASHAMED*.

IN HIS OWN WAY, HE'S TRYING TO MAKE YOU *PROUD*.

DAMN IF THAT DOESN'T SOUND *JUST* LIKE ROBBIE...

COME, DEAR...

RED-9-- SEE THEM *OUT*.

NOW IF SOMEONE COULD JUST SAY THOSE *SAME THINGS* TO MY *OWN* PARENTS...

YOWTCH! THAT WAS AWKWARD!

YEAH. WONDER WHO SENT THEM THE E-MAIL?

ANT-MAN.

WHO-- MOI?

TIME WE ALL HAD A LITTLE FUN.

I WANT YOU TO LEAD A NEW TRAINING EXERCISE. EVADE CAPTURE BY THE OTHER CADETS. CADETS-- USE ANY AND ALL FORCE NECESSARY TO APPREHEND ANT-MAN.

SURRENDER OR BE BROUGHT IN UNDER THREE HOURS, O'GRADY, I WON'T BE HAPPY.

IF I'M NOT HAPPY, NO ONE'S HAPPY.

SIXTY SECONDS HEAD START.

BUT--

THIRTY SECONDS.

I'M GOING I'M GOING I'M GONE!

ACT LIKE I STARTED A FRAKKIN' WAR--!

I'D CALL THAT THIRTY SECONDS. GO.

NOT YOU, MONKEY-BOY. YOU ALREADY HAD YOUR TURN.

THANKS, SIR--FOR WHAT YOU SAID TO THOSE PEOPLE. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME.

PRODIGY'S RIGHT--TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE SAY THINGS THEY DON'T MEAN.

YOU'RE OUT OF HERE, SPEEDBALL.

ME!? WHY--BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT MAN SAID? HE'S ALL BLUSTER, BELIEVE ME!

I GREW UP WITH A GUY JUST LIKE HIM! A LITTLE SHORTER, LITTLE HAIRIER, MAYBE--BUT THE RESEMBLANCE IS FREAKY!

THE CALL WAS MADE LAST NIGHT, MONKEY-BOY. FINGERS WERE POINTED, AND THEY POINTED AT YOU.

BUT I BELONG HERE, SIR! YOU KNOW I DO!

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! MORE THAN THAT MANGY ANT-MAN EVER WILL!

PLEASE. THIS PLACE... THESE PEOPLE...

IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN--SAYING THINGS NOT QUITE TRUE...

...YOU KNOW *THIS* GUY, RIGHT?

APE X?!

MAYBE.

ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS HE'S IN *LOS ANGELES*...AND DISAPPEARS WHENEVER *CAPES* OR *COPS* SHOW UP.

SO YOU'RE GOING ON A LITTLE *MONKEY-HUNT.*

OH, AND YOU FIGURE I CAN FIND HIM BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE ALL THE SUPER-SIMIANS *HANG?*

WASN'T MY *IDEA.* ISN'T MY *PROBLEM.*

FOR ALL I CARE, USE *SUPER-APE RADAR* TO TRACK HIM DOWN.

YEAH. "*SUPER-APE RADAR.*" DON'T BE--

BRILLIANT!

THE THING ABOUT *GENIUSES* IS-- THEY'RE *REALLY SMART.*

CASE IN POINT: *DR. FIONA FITZHUGH.*

WHEN I SWING BY STATE UNIVERSITY, SHE'S EXPERIMENTING WITH *PYM PARTICLES* TO INCREASE *CROP YIELDS.*

PROBLEM IS, EVERYTHING ENLARGES *PROPORTIONALLY*, SO THE VEGETABLE SKINS ARE THICK AS *LEATHER.*

WHICH IS WHY HER BOYFRIEND, MARTY, IS OFF MEETING WITH TOP *CLOTHING DESIGNERS* AND WE MIGHT SEE SOME VERY DELICIOUS *FALL FASHIONS.*

FIONA IS VERY, VERY GOOD AT MANY, MANY THINGS. MAKING COFFEE IS *NOT* ONE OF THEM. NOT THAT I'LL EVER TELL HER.

WHAT I *DO* TELL HER IS THE *CRAZY IDEA* I HAVE IN MIND...

...AND SHE BASICALLY BUILDS A PROTOTYPE ON HER *LUNCH BREAK.*

SHE DOESN'T ASK WHAT IT'S FOR-- MAYBE BECAUSE SHE SUDDENLY FLASHES ON A WAY TO USE THE EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE FOR FREE-FLOATING *DATA STORAGE...*

...BUT I THINK SHE KNEW THE MOMENT I WALKED THROUGH THE *DOOR.*

FINGERS CROSSED!

LIKE I SAID: *GENIUS.*

I'M IN LOS ANGELES BY NIGHTFALL--*THANK YOU*, MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

Hollywood Bl
6300 W
Vine St
1700 N
SLEEPY'S

FUNNY, YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS EASY FOR A MASKED GORILLA TO HIDE, BUT IT *IS* L.A.

LOOKING FOR APE X IN A CITY THIS BIG IS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK...

...EASY, IF YOU HAVE A *MAGNET*.

"*SUPER-APE RADAR*" TASKMASTER JOKED--BUT THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT THIS IS.

BIP! BIP! BIP!

IT LOCATES THE BIO-FIELDS OF APES--IN THIS CASE ONLY *GORILLAS*--AND ONLY FIELDS THAT ARE SOMEHOW *UNUSUAL*... MEANING ONLY APES WITH *AUGMENTED* OR *SPECIAL ABILITIES*.

AS AN *ADDED* FEATURE, IT SENDS OUT A SUB-FREQUENCY *HOMING BEACON* THAT *ATTRACTS* SAID APES. THAT WAS *MY* IDEA.

AND A *GOOD* ONE, CONSIDERING THE LOW APPROVAL-RATING OF THE *SPEEDBALL* BRAND RIGHT NOW. THE LESS I SHOW MY FURRY FACE, THE *BETTER*.

IF APE X IS *OUT* THERE, HE SHOULD COME TO *ME*.

JUST NO TELLING HOW *LONG* IT'LL--

RUN! *RUN!*

GORILLA ON THE LOOSE!

WELL, GOOD THING I DIDN'T STEP OUT FOR A SODA...

RAMPAGING MONSTER!
OH, PLEASE-- GORILLAS AREN'T MONSTERS...
SPOING!
...THEY JUST HAVE ANGER-MANAGEMENT ISSUES!
SPEEDBALL!
MONKEY SPEEDBALL?
TALKING MONKEY SPEEDBALL--!?
MOST IMPORTANTLY-- "DIDN'T DESTROY STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT" SPEEDBALL.
DISCUSS AMONG YOURSELVES WHILE I USE THE MYSTERIOUS MONKEY LANGUAGE CALLED ENGLISH TO COMMUNICATE WITH...
HRNNT!
UHM...
GEE, THE BODY ODOR IS FAMILIAR--BUT I CAN'T PLACE THE FACE...
NOT APE X.
NOT INTELLIGENT OR SUPER-POWERED, EITHER, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT. JUST A NORMAL EARTH-APE.
ALL RIGHT, SO THE GIZMO STILL NEEDS SOME BETA-TESTING. GOOD THING I TURNED IT OFF BEFORE--

MRRRAAHHRR--!

WHUNNG!

WOOK!

OKAY-- DEFINITELY SUPER-POWERED!

DEFINITELY ANGER-MANAGEMENT ISSUES!

TONNG!

BOINNG!

KWOINNG!

AND NO SENSE OF HUMOR AND LOUSY AT KARAOKE ARE PROBABLY GOOD BETS, TOO.

HEY--HAVEN'T YOU PEOPLE EVER HEARD OF FIGHT OR FLIGHT?

STANDING FROZEN IN FEAR-- NOT A GOOD OPTION!

GREAT. GOT TO GET DONKEY KONG OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE GOES MEDIEVAL ON THESE MESMERIZED MARIOS.

IF ONLY I HAD A DEVICE THAT COULD LURE THE FURRY FURY AWAY...

MUFFIN 2.00

WHICH I DO!

BECAUSE I'M THAT GOOD!

BIP! BIP! BIP!

YEEP!

NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THAT.

SO IT'S EITHER GOT AN ANTI-GRAV CIRCUIT FOR NO GOOD REASON, OR...

YEAH-- IT'S ALWAYS "OR"...

THANK YOU, PEOTOR.

SO THIS IS THE INSTRUMENT WHICH DROVE MIKLHO TO DISTRACTION? SO MUCH MISCHIEF FOR SUCH A SMALL MACHINE!

AND IN THE HANDS OF A COSTUMED, COMMUNICATIVE CHIMPANZEE? THAT IS THE MOST FASCINATING, MOST REVELATORY PART OF ALL!

FOR I THOUGHT THE ONLY SUPER-APES BELONGED TO... THE RED GHOST!

BAD NEWS, BALDY-- THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE I COME FROM! SO JUST GIVE BACK THE GIZMO AND--

I DO NOT BEND TO THE WILL OF LESSER MEN, CHIMP--LET ALONE LESSER SPECIES.

AH--AS I EXPECTED! FROM THE RATIO AND RELATIONSHIP OF ITS COMPONENTS, THIS IS NO PRODUCT OF SIMIAN SENTIENCE, BUT MADE BY HUMAN HANDS!

WHOSE HANDS, I WONDER? THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY? ARNIM ZOLA?

I CAME TO THIS CITY UPON HEARING OF ANOTHER SUPER-POWERED SIMIAN--BUT YOU ARE, INDEED, AN ASTOUNDING SPECIMEN!

MIKLHO! PEOTOR! IGOR! SUBDUE THE CHIMP! WE TAKE HIM TO THE LAB FOR FURTHER STUDY!

FUNNY STORY--BACK ON APE-EARTH, THERE'S AN ORANGUTAN RED GHOST PRETTY MUCH LIKE THIS GUY, EXCEPT HE'S GOT SUPER-CANINES HELPING HIM...

...A GERMAN SHEPHERD THAT TURNS INTO LIVING METAL WITH RAZOR-SHARP FUR, A MALAMUTE WITH LASER EYEBEAMS, AND A YAPPY, ANNOYING DACHSHUND THAT STRETCHES.

SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THIS MONKEY-BUNCH CAN DO!

THOOMB!

SUPER-STRENGTH, OF COURSE.

UM... MAGNETISM? GRAVITY CONTROL?

AND WHERE'S THAT BABOON?

INVISIBLE? I SMELL HIM BUT--

SHAPE-SHIFTER! SNEAKY SON OF A SHE-APE!

POST

"FOUGHT ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN AMERICA," I SAID. "SAVED THE WORLD," I SAID. YOU'D THINK I COULD HANDLE THESE THREE STOOGES!

INSTEAD, I'M LOOKING AT A VERY UNPLEASANT CAREER IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH!

I NEED SOMETHING THAT'LL THROW THEM OFF, GIVE ME AN EDGE. A GAME-CHANGER...

...A MONKEY WRENCH...

BACK OFF, BONZOS!

YOU WANT TO TAKE ON *SPEEDBALL*, YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE ON, UM... *ME*, TOO!

APE X!

IT *WORKED!* FIONA'S *SUPER-MONKEY MAGNET WORKED!*

IS *THAT* WHY MY TEETH FEEL WEIRD?

AND IS THAT MY *NAME?*

AND-- ARE YOU A *MONKEY?!*

OH, *GREAT!* SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. HE'S CONFUSED, DISORIENTED...

I HEARD THOR BECAME A *FROG* ONCE, SO--

HRKK!

KWANNG!

...SLOPPY...

GRAAHHR--!

THWOK!

YOUR HAND-BLASTS, APE X!

HURH--?

TOINNG!

SPOINNG!

FOCUS YOUR POWER THROUGH YOUR HANDS!

WHAT? LIKE-- EYOW!

TZZOT!

WOW. I DID NOT KNOW I COULD DO THAT!

YOU JUST FORGOT. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE NEW AT THIS.

I GUESS. IT HAS BEEN A FEW MONTHS...

MONTHS? NO-- THAT'S WRONG. I'VE KNOWN APE X FOR YEARS!

THERE'S NO APE X ON THIS WORLD--I CHECKED. THIS HAS TO BE THE APE X FROM MY WORLD! THIS HAS TO BE ROY REYNA!

THIS HAS TO BE MY FRIEND!

AND SUDDENLY IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING'S *SLIPPING AWAY...*

??

HEY-- YOU'RE FADING OUT LIKE A WEAK *RADIO STATION!*

OF COURSE. BECAUSE THINGS AREN'T *BAD ENOUGH!*

DO NOT WORRY, CHIMP-- YOU WILL NOT SLIP AWAY *THAT EASILY!*

IT IS *CHILD'S PLAY* FOR THE RED GHOST TO ALTER HIS BEING TO ANY DEGREE OF *INTANGIBILITY!* ALL I NEED DO IS *MATCH* YOUR SPECTRAL STATE AND YOU ARE, LITERALLY, WITHIN MY *GRASP!*

THERE IS *NO PLACE* YOU CAN GO THAT I CANNOT...

...FOLLOW...?

WHAT--? WHAT IS *THIS*-- A *DREAM?*

NO-- MORE LIKE MY *NIGHTMARE...*

NOTHING PERSONAL, GUYS!

WHAT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING...

A SPIDER... MONKEY? IRON... MANDRILL?

IMPOSSIBLE!

HMM? HIM? NO IDEA. KEEPS FOLLOWING ME AROUND. KIND OF CREEPY...

NO--I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH... HOPEFULLY...

SPEEDBALL-- WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?

OH, SOME SUPER-SIMIANS WHO SAY I BETRAYED THE PLANET AND WANT TO KILL ME.

UM...WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, GRO-RILLA. WAS TALKING TO--

WHOA! CLOSE ONE! GOOD THING I'M INTANGIBLE!

YEAH--MISS YOU GUYS, TOO!

"A LOT MORE WHERE I CAME FROM," YOU SAID!

OF COURSE!

I MUST SEE MORE!

FLINGIN' FECES, GHOST-- STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO--!

TZZKOOM!

GREAT GOOGLY MOOGLY--WHAT WAS *THAT?*

I WAS BEING DRAWN *BACK* TO MY WORLD--COULD ACTUALLY *SEE* THE APE-VENGERS...THEN...

EARS *RINGING...*

NO--*SIRENS... POLICE...*

LOOKS LIKE THE GHOST'S GOONS KNOW WHAT *THAT* MEANS. SMART SIMIANS...

PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE *MYSELF* SCARCE, TOO. LAST THING I NEED IS SPEEDBALL BLAMED FOR *ANOTHER* DISASTER...

WAIT. *APE X...*

NO *SIGN* OF THE BIG APE.

NO SIGN OF A *LITTLE* APE, EITHER.

YOU KNOW THAT FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE BRANCH-HOPPING AND ONE BREAKS AND YOU START TO *FALL?* THAT'S ME *NOW.*

I HAVE A FEELING I KNOW WHERE APE X IS. A *BAD* FEELING.

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE *SURE...*

A GREAT THING ABOUT WORKING WITH THE *INITIATIVE?* YOU TELL THEM A *NAME*, THEY TELL YOU AN *ADDRESS.*

I'M THERE BEFORE *HE* IS-- HALF HOPING I'M *WRONG.*

BUT IF THE SPEEDBALLS IN *MY* WORLD AND *THIS* WORLD ARE BOTH *ROBBIE BALDWIN,* CHANCES ARE THIS APE X IS...

ROY REYNA?

HUH?! WHUH... UM...

OR SHOULD I SAY... *APE X?*

THAT'S-- *HA!*--THAT'S *SILLY!* I'M NOT--

I MEAN, I...I DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHO*--

SKIP THE BANANA PEELS. THE FACT YOU'RE NOT FREAKED OUT I'M A *TALKING MONKEY* SAYS IT *ALL.*

YOU HAVE A *MASK*--A MEXICAN *WRESTLING* MASK-- AND WHEN YOU PUT IT ON YOU MAGICALLY TRANSFORM INTO A SUPER-POWERED GORILLA NAMED *APE X.*

FIRST TIME IT HAPPENED-- *AWESOME* OR *AWFUL?*

LITTLE... LITTLE OF BOTH. DIDN'T KNOW IF I'D CHANGE *BACK.*

HOW'D YOU--?

LET'S JUST SAY YOU'RE NOT THE *FIRST* APE X.

THERE WAS *ANOTHER?* ON THAT...*PLANET OF THE APES* YOU COME FROM?

WELL, WE CALL IT *EARTH*--KIND OF OUR LITTLE *PET NAME* FOR IT.

MIND IF I *LOOK* AT THE MASK?

WON'T *WORK* FOR YOU.

THIS GUY I KNOW--*OSO*--HE WAS JOKING AROUND, PUT IT ON. ALMOST GAVE ME A *CORONARY*, BUT...

NO--IT'S BONDED TO *YOU*.

HOW'D YOU *GET* IT?

FELL FROM THE *SKY*, LIKE A *SHOOTING STAR*. *WEIRD*, HUH?

NOT REALLY. IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THIS MASK TAPS INTO THE ESSENCE OF *OZOMATLI*, THE AZTEC *MONKEY GOD*.

ALL CONSTELLATIONS IN THE NIGHT SKY REVOLVE AROUND *HIS*.

WOW! YOU REALLY *KNOW* THIS STUFF! ME, I'VE JUST BEEN *MESSING* WITH THE MASK--OUT IN THE *FOOTHILLS*, MOSTLY.

THAT BIGFOOT SIGHTING LAST MONTH? HEH! THAT WAS ME!

I CAME HERE TRYING TO FIND MY *FRIEND*, BUT NOW I HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT ROY IS...

ROY IS *GONE*.

I MEAN, I'VE DONE SOME STUFF IN *TOWN*, TOO. EVEN STOPPED A *BAD GUY!* KIND OF BY *ACCIDENT*, BUT...

RINGER, SLINGER--SOMETHING LIKE THAT. *B-LIST*, SURE, BUT THE THING IS I TOOK HIM *DOWN*--AND I DIDN'T EVEN REALLY KNOW WHAT I WAS *DOING!*

AND HE'S *NEVER* COMING BACK.

IN HIS PLACE IS *THIS* ROY--A LITTLE *YOUNGER*, MORE *NAIVE*, AND WITH...

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS--IF YOU COULD *TRAIN* ME...

...*TEACH* ME...

...SO MUCH TO *LEARN*...

WREEENNK!

OONK--?

DID YOU NOT REALIZE THAT I WOULD *FOLLOW* YOU, CHIMP?

YOU-- WHO HOLD THE KEY TO SO MANY *FASCINATING* DOORWAYS?

OH, THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET A LOT *MORE* FASCINATING, VIEJO!

THEN AGAIN, HE HAS THE *SAME SPIRIT.*

UNFORTUNATELY.

WOO-AAK!

GHA--!

THOKK!

ROY--!

I'M...I'M *OKAY...*

IN CASE YOU CANNOT GRASP THE SITUATION-- YOU DO AS I *SAY*, CHIMP, OR THE BOY *DIES.*

YEAH, THAT WAS A *TOUGH ONE* TO FIGURE OUT. WHAT DO YOU *WANT*, GHOST?

TO THANK YOU. AND TO PROVE IT...

PEOTOR.

REEENNK!

WHAT I EXPERIENCED TODAY...WHAT I WITNESSED...

THAT PRIMATE PLANET-- I SAW ITS POTENTIAL ALMOST IMMEDIATELY! IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A SIMPLE FUN-HOUSE REFLECTION OF THIS WORLD!

NOT THAT MUCH FUN, REALLY. THEY'D EAT YOU ALIVE.

TRUST ME.

AH! A FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT...HUMOR? THREAT?

NO MATTER. EVEN IF IT WERE THE SMALLEST BIT TRUE, THEY CANNOT HURT WHAT THEY CANNOT TOUCH-- AS YOU YOURSELF DEMONSTRATED.

NO-- CLEARLY I AM THEIR SUPERIOR...

...AND IT IS MY DESTINY TO RULE THEM!

UM, NOT TO RAIN ON YOUR REIGN--BUT YOU CAN'T EXACTLY GET THERE FROM HERE.

THANK THE GREAT GOOGLY MOOGLY...

BUT I CAN! AND YOU SHOWED ME THE WAY, CHIMP.

LONG HAVE I THEORIZED THAT INTANGIBILITY MIGHT SHIFT MATTER *TRANS-DIMENSIONALLY*--AND TONIGHT PROVED ME *CORRECT.*

MY OWN POWER--PROPERLY FOCUSED--CAN BRIDGE THE GAP *BETWEEN WORLDS!*

AND BY USING DEEP CONCENTRATION--AND YOU AS A DIMENSIONAL *COMPASS*, CHIMP--I SHALL ACCOMPLISH JUST THAT!

I WON'T DO IT.

FINE.

MIKLHO--THE *BOY*--

OKAY, I'LL *DO* IT.

SORRY YOU GOT MIXED UP IN THIS...*MONKEY BUSINESS*, ROY.

HEY--I WAS THE ONE WHO RUSHED IN TO HELP *YOU.*

YEAH--BUT YOU THOUGHT I WAS THE *HUMAN* SPEEDBALL... WHICH MAKES *LESS* SENSE, SINCE HE'S GOT, LIKE, *ZERO* FRIENDS ON HIS APEBOOK PAGE!

WELL... I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE GOT A *RAW DEAL.*

HUH. YOU *WOULD.*

THAT MASK--IT'S A *GOOD FIT* WITH YOU, ROY.

HOPE SO.

KNOW SO.

YOUR MAGILLAS WILL LET HIM *GO* ONCE WE'RE GONE? CROSS YOUR HEART AND HOPE I'LL *KILL* YOU?

OF COURSE. THEY'RE *WELL-TRAINED.*

THEN LET'S MAKE LIKE A BANANA AND *YOU KNOW WHAT!*

HEY, SPEEDBALL, WE...WE WOULD'VE MADE A *GREAT TEAM,* HUH?

THE *BEST.*

YOU KNOW WHAT'S WORSE THAN INVADING A PLACE THAT *DOESN'T* HAVE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

SILENCE!

NO--THIS YOU GOT TO HEAR. THE ONLY THING WORSE IS INVADING A PLACE THAT *DOES* HAVE WMDS AND ISN'T AFRAID TO *USE* THEM.

FLINGIN' FECES--*WANTS* TO USE THEM.

YOU'LL START A *WAR.*

YES, WELL...

...THAT *IS* MY PLAN, AFTER ALL.

EPILOGUE.

ANOTHER EARTH.

VWEEP! VWEEP! VWEEP!

GOT SOMETHING...

...DIMENSIONAL *BREACH.*

INTO THAT LOVELY, LUSCIOUS *EARTH?*

YES.

WAIT...

NO. *FROM* THERE. DOOR SWINGS THE *OTHER* WAY, INTO *ANOTHER* WORLD.

LOCK *ONTO* IT! *GET* US THERE!

WELL, *SOMEONE'S* A LITTLE TESTY. LOW *BLOOD SUGAR?*

I JUST DON'T WANT TO STAY *HERE* AND *ROT!*

HEAR *THAT.*

GIVE ME A *MINUTE*, SEE WHAT I CAN *DO.*

GO GET THE *OTHERS...*

...ASK IF THEY'D LIKE TO GO OUT FOR A *BITE!*

TO BE CONTINUED...

CHARLES DARWIN PRESENTS:

THE AWESOME ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES!

THE YEAR: 1862.

THE PLACE: THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. (THE HUMAN ONE.)

WHERE AM I?

WHO ARE YOU?

WELCOME TO MY *HIMALAYAN RETREAT*, CHARLES DARWIN. I AM THIS REALITY'S *SORCERER SUPREME*...

THE ANCIENT ONE.

TOM PEYER — WRITER
CHAD HARDIN — PENCILER
WALDEN WONG — INKER
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR — COLORS
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA — LETTERS
TOM BRENNAN — ASST. EDITOR
STEPHEN WACKER — EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT — EXEC. EDITOR
JOE QUESADA — EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER

THIS IS *IMPOSSIBLE*. EITHER YOU HAVE *ABDUCTED ME* AND DOSED ME WITH *OPIUM*...

OR I AM *DREAMING*.

LET US SAY THE *LATTER*, THEN. FOR TRUTH MAY COME IN *DREAMS*.

NO, IT MAY *NOT*. TRUTH COMES FROM DISCIPLINED OBSERVATION.

I *KNEW* YOU WOULD SAY THAT.

WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, YOUR THEORY OF NATURAL SELECTION HAS ALREADY MADE YOU THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURE SINCE ***NEWTON.***

IT HAS?

INDEED, YOUR DOMINANCE IN THE SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES WILL OUTLAST EVEN ***HIS.***

IT WILL?

NOW, IMAGINE THE ***SORCERER SUPREME'S*** PREDICAMENT: TO LIVE THROUGH ***CENTURIES*** DOMINATED BY BELIEF IN ONLY ***SCIENCE.***

THIS IS WHY I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE IS MORE TO REALITY THAN CAN EVER BE DIVINED BY YOUR BLIND RATIONALITY AND SICKLY POWERS OF OBSERVATION.

FINE.

YOU DO NOT ***BELIEVE*** ME.

I CREDIT ONLY THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED THROUGH SCIENTIFIC MEANS, OR WHICH I HAVE OBSERVED THROUGH MY OWN SENSES.

THEN ***BEGONE, EMPIRICAL ONE--***

--AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

O GREAT SORCERER SUPREME? IF THIS WRETCHED ONE MAY BE SO IMPERTINENT AS TO ASK A *QUESTION...*

I SUPPOSE, WONG-THE-FIRST. IF YOU WASH MY FEET.

WHERE HAVE YOU SENT THE ENGLISHMAN?

TO A CERTAIN TIME AND PLACE, THE VERY ESSENCE OF WHICH SHALL REFUTE HIS PREJUDICES.

YOU DO NOT LIKE SCIENTISTS VERY MUCH, DO YOU?

NO MORE QUESTIONS.

I CANNOT BELIEVE IT IS ONLY 1862 AND YOU ARE ALREADY THIS ANCIENT.

CAREFUL WITH MY CORNS.

EEEYAAAH

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

WHAT IS THAT THING?

BJM°KAY TRUCKS

IT'S HIDEOUS!

IT CAN'T TAKE US ALL! COME ON, LET'S RUSH IT!

NO!

CAN'T YOU SEE?

I MEAN, I CAN'T, BUT EVEN A BLIND SCULPTRESS, CAN SENSE THAT THE CREATURE'S MERELY FRIGHTENED!

THERE, THERE. CALM DOWN. YES.

YOUR FEATURES SPEAK OF A VAST INTELLIGENCE, OF COURAGE, OF NOBIL--

DON'T TOUCH ME!

AAAH!

GET HIM!

KILL THE MONSTER!!

NEXT: DarWIN, LOSE... OR DIE!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MONKEY

SPIDERS! Since the dawn of the Ape-verse, we have lived in harmony with these creatures. And yet within their tiny bite lies powers untapped by man.

BEHOLD! I am the Watcher, and in the world of Marvel Apes, we too have our own Spectacular, Sensational, AMAZING SPIDER-MONKEY!

Pitiful primate Peter Parker did visit a science experiment at Empire State University, only to have a radioactive spider infiltrate his lunch-bunch of bananas and later bite his hand!

Becoming a top banana in showbiz, The SPIDER-MONKEY was born! But with great power came great responsibility when his Uncle Ben was killed by a robber, and Spider-Monkey vowed to use his powers to help Ape-Kind!

Lately, Spider-Monkey joined forces with the Apevengers to defend his world against what they saw as intruders from your human universe - Marty "The Gibbon" Blank and Dr. Fiona Fitzhugh.

But when they discovered Captain America was secretly a vampire imposter, the Apevengers teamed with the true Captain America to purge the vampire menace...and plot a bold new simian world...

HAVE TO ADMIT, WHEN I REALIZED CAPTAIN AMERICA--THE WALKING, TALKING EMBODIMENT OF THE UNITED SIMIANS OF AMERICA--WAS A VAMPIRE, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS...

"HUH?"

OF COURSE, I ALSO JUST LEARNED HE WASN'T THE REAL CAP, BUT SOME ÜBER-VAMP AMPED UP ON SUPER-SIMIAN SERUM...

...AND THE INVADERS WERE VAMPIRES, TOO...

...AND ALL THIS WHILE TWO HUMANS--MARTY BLANK AND FIONA FITZHUGH--WERE ON OUR WORLD...

...AND WE WERE ABOUT TO ATTACK THEIR DIMENSION FOR WHAT WE THOUGHT WERE GOOD REASONS BUT TURNED OUT NOT TO BE...

...SO THAT "HUH?" WAS PRETTY DEEP, CONSIDERING I WAS--AS THEY SAY--UP TO MY EYEBALLS IN BANANAS AND PEELING AS FAST AS I CAN.

IN THE END, THE BAD GUYS LOST AND THE GOOD GUYS WON...

...MOSTLY.

ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS--SPEEDBALL--WAS BRANDED A TRAITOR FOR HELPING THE HUMANS ESCAPE, AND BARELY ESCAPED WITH THEM...

...WHILE ANOTHER ONE--APE X--DIED.

I KNOW, I KNOW--DANGEROUS JOB. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. LAW OF THE URBAN JUNGLE. I'VE HEARD ALL THE SAYINGS MY ENTIRE LIFE.

BUT EVER SINCE ALL THIS HAPPENED...

...THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMS UPSIDE-DOWN.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MONKEY IN WITH GREAT APE POWER...

KARL KESEL WRITER
REILLY BROWN PENCILER
VICTOR OLAZABA INKER
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR COLORIST
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER
THOMAS BRENNAN MONKEY BOY
STEVE WACKER MONKEY MAN
JOE QUESADA PRIME APE
DAN BUCKLEY THE KING OF KONG
ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

MAYBE IT'S JUST *ME.*

I MEAN, *MONKHATTAN* IS STILL THE SAME.

KIDS SWINGING OFF TO *SCHOOL*... GREATER AND LESSER APES GRABBING A *BANANA LATTE* ON THEIR WAY TO *WORK*...

...CROOKS BEING CRIMINALLY *STUPID*...

W 14TH

MY *PURSE!* GIVE BACK MY *PURSE!*

GROOM ME, GRANDMA! TAKERS, *KEEPERS!*

NGG!

YEAH, YOU'RE A *POWERFUL PRIMATE*-- GOING ALL *DOMINANT* ON ONE OF OUR *SENIOR SIMIANS!*

HEY! MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU CAN TAKE *CANDY* FROM A *BABY!*

HELLO! PROPORTIONAL STRENGTH, SPEED, ETC. OF A *SPIDER!* YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN *TAKE ME?*

SCRAWNY LITTLE *WEB-SWINGER!* NOT SO *TOUGH!*

GRAHHH--!

NO--NOT A LOT OF *THINKING* INVOLVED. SHOULD'VE--

WUNNK!

OKAY.

YOU WANNA GO ALL *ALPHA*? I CAN DO *THAT*, TOO!

A *FAIR* FIGHT? NOT EVEN *CLOSE.*

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? THE *WORLD'S* NOT FAIR. BEEN THAT WAY SINCE BEFORE MONKEYS CLIMBED OUT OF *TREES,* RIGHT UP TO NOW...

...INCLUDING THE DAY MY *UNCLE BEN* WAS KILLED.

KILLED BY A SCUM-MONKEY A LOT LIKE *THIS* FURBALL.

SOMEONE LIKE THAT, THERE'S JUST *ONE* THING TO DO.

MAKE HIM *SUBMISSIVE.*

AND IF HE *RESISTS...*

YOU TRY *AGAIN.* YOU TRY *HARDER.*

AND YOU *DON'T STOP.*

YOU *DON'T STOP...*

GREAT GOODALL! LOOKS LIKE FATE AND FAITH FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH "HAIRY" McGURK!

A HARD NUT, THAT ONE--BUT I'LL WAGER YOU PUT A GOOD CRACK IN HIS COCONUT, SPIDEY! WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE!

PAWS OFF, SHERLOCK! OR... OR YOU AND WATSON GET A TASTE, TOO!

WELL, NOW. IT APPEARS WE DIDN'T GET HERE QUITE AS QUICK AS WE THOUGHT-- DID WE, MAGER?

YOU'RE RIGHT, GUS--I'M CERTAIN WE DIDN'T ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER SPIDEY FINISHED WITH "HAIRY."

INDEED. NOT THAT I'M CONDONING VIGILANTE JUSTICE, MIND YOU-- BUT THERE ARE TIMES THESE THINGS JUST CAN'T BE HELPED.

ISN'T THAT A FACT, SPIDEY?

THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE.

THIS IS HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN DONE.

BUT...

HE ISN'T THE KONGPIN, OFFICERS.

I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE HIM.

I'M ALMOST TO *APEVENGERS TOWER* BEFORE I REALLY KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.

I'M OFF MY *GAME.* HAVE THIS BAD FEELING ABOUT... SOMETHING.

LIKE A CONSTANT, LOW-LEVEL WARNING FROM MY...

...SPIDER-SENSE!

KILL YOU--YOU CHUMP CHIMP!

TELL ME WHEN YOU START *TRYIN'*, BUB!

SANDMONK WAS ONE OF MY TOUGHEST *ENEMIES* BEFORE HE WAS MADE SUBMISSIVE AND *"REHABILITATED"* BY THE APEVENGERS.

ALWAYS KNEW THAT *WOULDN'T LAST.* ONLY *ONE WAY* TO HANDLE THIS...

BIP BOP BOOP BOOP

SHNNK

OKAY, SANDMONK-- YOU KNOW WHAT THIS *IS*, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'LL *DO.*

QUESTION IS--WHAT'LL *YOU* DO?

HEY--EASY, SPIDEY! NO NEED TO GO ALL RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE!

WOLVERINE AND ME WERE JUST HAVIN' SOME FUN HERE! PLAYIN' SOME CARDS!

CARDS?

HE CHEATED!

IT'S NOT CHEATING IF YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO WIN. I WAS TRYING TO BREAK UP THE GAME. WORKED LIKE A CHARM.

USED TO DO THIS WITH DOC BANANNER BACK WHEN WE WERE WITH THE OUTCASTS. TICKED HIM OFF, CHANGED INTO THE HULK...

GOOD TIMES!

AH, I SEE YOU'RE A STEP AHEAD OF ME, SIR, AND SETTLED THE SITUATION. VERY GOOD.

MAY I ADD, I AM QUITE IMPRESSED YOU KNOW THE CODE FOR THE TOWER'S ATOMIC VACUUM SYSTEM.

A NATURAL EXTENSION OF YOUR DESIRE TO "CLEAN UP" OUR CITY, I SUPPOSE.

WOULDN'T HAVE HURT HIM, JARVIS, JUST HELD HIM IN THE DUST TRAP...GIVE HIM TIME TO COOL DOWN...

INGENIOUS AND IMMACULATE, SIR.

ALLOW ME TO RETURN THIS TO ITS PROPER PLACE-- I BELIEVE THEY'RE EXPECTING YOU IN THE LAB.

GREAT GOOGLY MOOGLY! ALMOST FORGOT!

EVER SINCE THE HUMANS CAME TO OUR DIMENSION A FEW MONTHS BACK, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO THEIRS.

WE HAD A PORTAL--BUILT BY OUR OWN SUPER-GENIUS, REED RICHARDS, WITH THE HELP OF THE HUMAN FIONA FITZHUGH...

...BUT FITZHUGH WENT BACK TO HER WORLD, RICHARDS WAS KILLED, AND THE PORTAL WAS DESTROYED.

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO MONKEY-PUZZLE IT BACK TOGETHER EVER *SINCE.* TODAY'S ITS *TRIAL RUN.*

THIS VERSION'S, AT LEAST.

SPIDER-MONKEY! GLAD YOU *MADE* IT!

EXIT

YOU KIDDING, CAP? THIS IS ONE SMALL STEP FOR *MONKEY*--ONE GIANT LEAP FOR *MONK-KIND!*

EVEN IF WE'RE JUST LEAPING TO *SAFETY* AS IT *EXPLODES!*

UM...NOT THAT I THINK IT *WILL...*

PERSONALLY, I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TEARING A *HOLE* IN REALITY THAT DESTROYS THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM AS WE KNOW IT.

YES--FEELING *MUCH* BETTER NOW, THANK YOU, DR. BANANNER.

WON'T HAPPEN. OR WON'T REALLY MATTER IF IT *DOES.*

FINAL WELD IN PLACE. HOW'S THE *CONTROL CONSOLE* LOOK, HANK?

WE GOT *GREEN* ACROSS THE BOARD, IRON MANDRILL. LET'S SHOW THOSE *HAIRLESS APES* WHO'S KING OF THE DIMENSIONAL *JUNGLE!*

PLACES, PRIMATES!

MONKEY C HAS A PHOTO-DIORAMIC MEMORY. ANYTHING HE *SEES,* HE CAN *DO--PERFECTLY.*

HE WATCHED FIONA FITZHUGH OPERATE THE *ORIGINAL* PORTAL, AND FLAWLESSLY *RECREATES* THOSE MOVEMENTS.

TROUBLE IS, HE DOESN'T KNOW *WHY* SHE DID WHAT SHE DID. *NONE* OF US DO.

SALVAGED PARTS TOLD *SOME* OF THE STORY, *HINTED* AT MORE, AND WE *GUESSED* AT THE REST.

WE HAD SOME *BIG BRAINS* WORKING IT--DR. BANANNER, IRON MANDRILL, GRO-RILLA...

...ME. I MEAN, I'M NO *APENHEIMER,* BUT I HAVE MY *MOMENTS.*

THE ION-LOAD THE *FLUX CAPACITOR* NEEDS TO HANDLE? *I* FIGURED THAT OUT.

UM... BADLY.

WHAT--?

DID WE... BLOW A CURCUIT?

PRETTY SURE IT'S THE FLUX CAPACITOR...

FLINGIN' FECES! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU PRIMATES?

REED BUILT THIS THING IN TWO DAYS!

AND HE WAS A SUPER-GENIUS WORKING WITH SOMEONE WHO'D ALREADY DONE IT--SO I'D SAY WE'RE NOT DOING TOO BAD, CONSIDERING.

HNH. LOOKS LIKE WEB-HEAD WAS RIGHT.

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THE SIMIAN TORCH HAS A BIT OF A TEMPER...

FORGIVE MY BROTHER, CAP. HE'S JUST, WELL... MY BROTHER.

IT'S HARD FOR *ALL* OF US, SOMETIMES-- GETTIN' THIS CLOSE TO A PLACE REED THOUGHT COULD *CURE* SUZIE AND MAKE HER *SIMIAN* AGAIN.

BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND YOUR *IMPATIENCE.* MR. GRIMM-- BUT REST ASSURED WE *WON'T STOP* UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO THE HUMAN WORLD.

I'LL MAKE *CERTAIN* OF IT.

WHEN CAP CAME OUT OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND HELPED DUST THE SUPER-VAMPS, THE ONLY ONE HE COULDN'T KILL WAS HIS ORIGINAL PARTNER, *BUCKY.*

NOW BUCKY'S UNDER CONSECRATED LOCK-AND-KEY, AND CAP'S HOPING SUE'S NOT THE *ONLY* APE THE HUMAN HOMEWORLD CAN CHANGE BACK TO *NORMAL.*

AND I'M HOPING ME PULLING A *BANANA PEEL* WITH THE FLUX CAPACITOR DOESN'T GET ME *KILLED.*

SERIOUSLY.

I CAN *DOUBLE* ITS RESISTANCE...

IT WON'T *HELP.* WE'RE CASTING TOO BIG A *NET* OVER TOO WIDE AN *AREA.* NO WONDER WE'RE *ION-OVERLOADING.*

EXIT

KLIK

BRUCE IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO NARROW OUR SEARCH FIELD.

TELL ME HOW.

IDEAS ARE PUT ON THE TABLE, POKED, PRODDED, PICKED UP, PASSED AROUND.

OF COURSE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE *NEED* IS THE ONE THING WE *DON'T HAVE*--A DIMENSIONAL *ENERGY SIGNATURE* TO TAP INTO AND TRACE TO ITS SOURCE...

...A REAL *HUMAN.* THIS WOULD BE EASY AS BANANA CREAM PIE IF WE HAD FIONA FITZHUGH HERE...

...OR *MARTY BLANK.* EVEN WITH HIS PERFECT PRIMATE *PROFILE,* HE WAS HUMAN, TOO.

IF THESE APES THINK *WE'RE* PULLING OUR FUR OUT, THEY SHOULD HAVE SEEN *MARTY.* HE WAS ONE *FUNKY MONKEY* WHILE HE WAITED FOR THE *FIRST* PORTAL TO BE FINISHED.

'COURSE, WORD ON THE VINE IS HE ALREADY KNEW SOMETHING DIDN'T SMELL RIGHT WITH *CAP,* SO IT'S NO SURPRISE HE WAS A LITTLE...

...ON *EDGE.*

YAAAA--!

MARTY?

SPIDER-MONKEY! DID *CAPTAIN AMERICA* SEND YOU?!

NO.

DID YOU JUST...SCREAM LIKE A *GIRL?*

SCREAM? *NO!* THAT WAS--*HA!* THAT WAS A SHOUT OF *JOY!*

IT'S SPIDER-MONKEY! *YEA!*

THAT'S HOW WE DO IT ON *MY* WORLD!

OOOKAY...

?

NOW HERE'S HOW WE DO IT ON *MINE...*

SHOVE!

AAAAA-!

UHLP!

SEE, MARTY-- SPEEDBALL, APE X AND ME KNEW ALL THIS WAITING AROUND WAS DRIVING YOU *CRAZY*...

...WHICH WAS DRIVING *US* CRAZY...

...SO WE DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR *OWN HANDS.*

WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* TO ME?

WHATEVER IT *TAKES*...

...TO GET YOUR MIND OFF THAT DUNG *PORTAL!* LIKE THEY SAY-- A WATCHED *CLOCK* NEVER *BOILS!*

POT. A WATCHED *POT* NEVER BOILS.

NEITHER DOES A *CLOCK.*

C'MON-- LET'S GO SEE IF CRIMINALS REALLY ARE A *COWARDLY* AND *SUPERSTITIOUS* LOT!

THIS IS...THIS IS *TOO WEIRD.* YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE *DREAMED* OF GOING ON PATROL WITH--

WELL, SPIDER-*MAN,* BUT...

BUT I'M THE ONLY WEB-SWINGER IN *THIS* BURG, BUDDY BLANK!

SO... CURIOUS. HOW DO I *RATE?*

WITH THE *GREATEST HERO* I'VE EVER KNOWN? PRETTY *GOOD.*

YOU AND SPIDER-MAN ARE ALOT *ALIKE,* REALLY. PROBABLY WENT THROUGH A LOT OF THE *SAME STUFF.*

DON'T TELL ME *YOUR* SPIDEY STARTED BY DOING *BAD TV,* TOO!

YEAH--HE WAS A *BIG HIT!* GOT A *BOOTLEG COPY* OF THE SHOW AT HOME...

THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED... ONLY HEARD *RUMORS.* LIKE SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM *DIED,* AND HE'S SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE *MAKING UP* FOR IT.

YOU'RE RIGHT... YOUR *MAN* AND ME GOT *ALOT* IN COMMON...

TELL YOU, NOT A DAY GOES BY I DON'T WISH I'D DONE THINGS *DIFFERENT*-- ACTED *SOONER.* MY UNCLE WOULD STILL BE *ALIVE* IF I HAD...

"...IF I HAD *KILLED* THAT GRUB-EATING MAGILLA WHEN HE RAN BY ME AT THE *STUDIO...*

THIEF! HEY--STOP THAT *THIEF!*

"...INSTEAD OF DOING IT *AFTER* HE SHOT MY UNCLE.

"BELIEVE ME, I'VE NEVER MADE *THAT* MISTAKE...*EVER AGAIN!*"

SO WHAT YOU'RE *SORRY* ABOUT IS... YOU DIDN'T *KILL* HIM...*SOONER?*

YOU WEED OUT *BAD FRUIT* AT THE FIRST SIGN OF *ROT*. *EVERYONE* KNOWS THAT.

YOU *ALL RIGHT*, MARTY?

OH, I'M FINE! *FINE!* I *BETTER* BE--OR I'M *DEAD!*

THAT'S HOW YOU *DO* IT HERE, RIGHT? ANYONE WHO'S *OUT OF LINE*, WHO ISN'T *ON BOARD*, WHO DOESN'T *SUBMIT--!*

HE WAS A *CRIMINAL*, MARTY.

AND EVERY CRIME IS *NOT* A *CAPITAL OFFENSE!* THERE'S SUCH A THING AS *MERCY* AND *COMPASSION* AND... AND *HUMANITY!*

STAY HERE. *DON'T* FOLLOW ME.

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE *DIFFERENT*--BUT I WAS *WRONG*. YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE *REST*...

...YOU'RE *NOTHING* LIKE *SPIDER-MAN!*

WHAT DO YOU THINK-- TELEPATHIC *TRANCE?*

I'M BETTIN' ALIEN ENTITY *POSSESSION!*

JUST SO LONG HE AIN'T A SKRULLRILLA *SLEEPER AGENT!*

HUH--? OH, SORRY. I WAS JUST THINKING OF...

MIND WAS *WANDERING.* SEEMS TO HAPPEN *ALOT* LATELY.

LIKE I'M *LOOKING* FOR SOMETHING, BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT IT *IS...*

MY ADVICE, SPIDEY--FOCUS ON WHAT YOU DO KNOW. THAT'LL OFTEN SHOW YOU THE SHAPE OF WHAT YOU DON'T.

OF COURSE! THAT'S IT!

THAT'S HOW WE NARROW OUR SEARCH FIELD!

DOC--?

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND THE ENERGY SIGNATURE OF A DIMENSION WE KNOW *NOTHING* ABOUT--THE *HUMAN* DIMENSION!

WE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON ONE WE *DO* KNOW-- *OUR OWN!*

AM I THE *ONLY* ONE TOTALLY LOST?

MOST TIMES, FUR-BURNER, BUT NOT *THIS--*

HATE TO BREAK UP THE TEA PARTY, PRIMATES...

...BUT THERE'S TROUBLE ON TAP IN *CENTRAL FOREST*--A BUNCH OF *CHEST-BEATERS* CALLIN' THEMSELVES THE NEW *MASTER BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL APES* OR SOME SUCH.

FIGURED YOU'D WANT *IN* ON THE *FUN.*

ROGER *THAT,* WOLVERINE!

COUNT *US* IN, TOO, CAP--IT'S BETTER THAN SITTING AROUND HERE *GROOMING* OURSELVES!

TOO EXCITING FOR *ME.*

I BELIEVE WE'LL *ALL* BE BETTER OFF IF I STAY HERE AND *WORK.*

I THINK BANANNER'S ONTO SOMETHING. MIND IF I GIVE HIM A HAND?

NOT A PROBLEM. WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HELP, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANYTHING SHORT OF *OOKTRON!*

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE...

APEVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED--A CHANCE TO CLEAR MY *HEAD* AND KICK SOME *TAIL!*

IT'S A NEW MIX OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS...

THE WRENCHER

SHANG CHI-CHI, MASTER OF KONG-FU

BATROOK

THE ABSORBING MANDRILL

TITANAPE

TIGORILLA

I NEVER FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THIS BUNCH OF BAD BANANAS *WANTS*--BUT I KNOW WHAT THEY'LL *GET.*

KNOCKED DOWN, MADE SMALL, TREATED LIKE A *RUBBER BALL!*

BUT THE BEST LAID PLANS OF *MICE* AND *MONKEYS*...

I DON'T *GET* IT, CHI-CHI-- WE'VE FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE BEFORE! WHAT MADE YOU GO OVER TO THE *DARK SIDE* OF THE FOREST?

I HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED MY *TRUE SELF*, SPIDER-MONKEY-- AS THE ONE SON OF *YELLOW PAW!*

I NOW *LEAD* THESE SIMIANS IN *HIS* NAME--FOR HIS *GLORY!*

BUT YOU'RE JUST *PLAYING ALONG*, RIGHT? WORKING FROM *INSIDE* THE PAW'S INSIDIOUS, EVIL ORGANIZATION TO BRING IT *DOWN?*

THWIP!

TO DO SO WOULD *DISHONOR* MY FAMILY, WALL-WALKER.

NO-- WE WILL *RULE TOGETHER*, MY FATHER AND I.

WE WILL USHER IN A NEW *GOLDEN AGE* WHERE JUSTICE IS DETERMINED BY *LAW*, NOT BY *CLAW.*

KRAK!

WHERE THE WEAK ARE *PROTECTED* FROM BULLYING *ALPHAS*, AND THEIR *COMBINED* TALENTS *STRENGTHEN* OUR SIMIAN SOCIETY.

ONLY THE YELLOW PAW HAS THE *RESOURCES* TO MAKE THIS A REALITY-- AND ONLY I, THE INFLUENCE TO *GUIDE* HIM.

BUT LAW OF THE *JUNGLE*... SURVIVAL OF THE *FITTEST*...*SIMIAN NATURE!*

EVEN IF YOUR OOKTOPIA *COULD* HAPPEN, IT *CAN'T* HAPPEN...

...*CAN* IT?

SEE FOR *YOURSELF*, WEB-SWINGER.

JOIN US!

AND THE CRAZY THING IS... I *DON'T* THINK HE'S CRAZY.

IT CAN'T BE AS SIMPLE AS HE *SAYS,* BUT SOME PART OF ME *BELIEVES* HIM-- OR *WANTS* TO BELIEVE HIM.

GOODALL KNOWS HIGH SCHOOL *GYM CLASS* WOULD BE A LOT EASIER IN CHI-CHI'S--

WHAN!

WHAT'RE YOU *WAITING* FOR, SOLDIER? THIS IS THEIR *GENERAL!* BRING HIM DOWN AND THE REST FALL LIKE *DOMINOES!*

YOU MAY *TRY,* STAR-SPANGLED SIMIAN!

DON'T MAKE THIS *HARDER* ON YOURSELF THAN IT HAS TO BE, CHI-CHI!

I WILL NOT *SUBMIT,* APE-RACHNID! I WILL NOT *SHAME* MY FATHER!

SAW THIS BACK IN THE *BIG ONE*-- APES WHO'D CHOOSE *DEATH* BEFORE *DISHONOR.*

FINE BY *ME!*

WHAMM!

CHI-CHI--PLEASE!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS *WORTH* DYING FOR, MY FURRY FRIEND...

...AND SOME THINGS NOT WORTH LIVING *WITHOUT!*

APEVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

THEY SEEM TO COME OUT OF *NOWHERE*--THEIR OWN OPPONENTS STUNNED INTO *SUBMISSION* OR *KILLED*--DESCENDING ON SHANG CHI-CHI LIKE A SWARM OF *LOCUSTS*...

...LIKE A *PLAGUE*...

IT GOES ON *FOREVER*... OR ENDS IN AN *INSTANT*. CAN'T REMEMBER *WHICH*.

NEXT I KNOW, WE'RE BACK AT *APEVENGERS TOWER*.

--BEEN ROUGH FOR YOU EVER SINCE *APE X* DIED BUT, Y'KNOW, WE LOST *REED* AND...

...I'M JUST SAYING YOU'VE GOT TO GET BACK ON THAT *HORSE*, SPIDEY--AND RIDE 'TIL IT *DROPS!*

YEAH... YEAH, YOU'RE *RIGHT*, TORCH...

HAIL THE CONQUERING *HOMO-SIMIANS!* AND JUST IN *TIME*--I THINK WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO *SHOW* YOU!

BRUCE--?

WELL, I GOT THE IDEA FROM YOU AND *SPIDER-MONKEY*, REALLY.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT IT IS OR HOW TO FIND IT-- THE *HUMAN DIMENSION.*

EXIT

HOW CAN WE OPEN A *DOORWAY* TO THAT WORLD WHEN WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ITS *ENERGY SIGNATURE* IS?

ANSWER: WE FOCUS ON WHAT WE DO KNOW. AND WE *DO* KNOW THE ENERGY SIGNATURE OF *ONE THING* IN THE HUMAN UNIVERSE.

SPEEDBALL. HE HAS THE SAME BIO-FREQUENCY AS ANY OTHER LIVING ORGANISM FROM OUR UNIVERSE-- AND HE'S ON THE *HUMAN* WORLD.

SO WE SCAN THE DIMENSIONAL BANDWIDTH LOOKING FOR *THAT.* AND WHEN WE *FIND* IT...

EXIT

...WE LOCK ONTO IT...

...AND...

AND--THERE'S SPEEDBALL! NOT A DREAM! NOT A HOAX!

NOT EXACTLY SOLID, EITHER--BUT SPEEDBALL!

AND HE'S NOT ALONE.

WHAT--? WHAT IS THIS-- A DREAM?

MORE LIKE MY NIGHTMARE...

NOTHING PERSONAL, GUYS!

SAME GOES FOR US, SPEEDBALL.

HEY, SPEEDY-B! LONG TIME NO SEE...

A SPIDER... MONKEY? IRON... MANDRILL? IMPOSSIBLE!

WHO'S YOUR FURLESS FRIEND?

HMM? HIM? NO IDEA. KEEPS FOLLOWING ME AROUND. KIND OF CREEPY...

SHOULDN'T HAVE PICKED UP *ANY* HUMAN. IT'S CAUSING *INTERFERENCE...*

SOLIDIFY THEM *BOTH*, DOC, AND WE'LL HAVE THE *HUMAN* ENERGY SIGNATURE WE NEED.

INCREASING TO 320 TERAHERTZ...

SPEEDBALL SEEMS *DISTRACTED, UNFOCUSED*--AS IF HE'S NOT ALL *HERE.*

GOT SOME *UNFINISHED BUSINESS* WITH YOU, BOUNCIN' BOY.

YEAH! THINK YOU CAN *STAY LONG?*

NO--I'M JUST *PASSING THROUGH...* HOPEFULLY...

I MEAN, MORE THAN *USUAL.*

OH, SOME *SUPER-SIMIANS* WHO SAY I BETRAYED THE PLANET AND WANT TO *KILL* ME.

I SAW IT *MYSELF*, SPEEDBALL. YOU WERE HELPING THE HUMANS INSTEAD OF YOUR *OWN*. LAW OF THE *JUNGLE* SAYS THAT'S *TREASON.*

DOPPLER SHIFTING TO *RED*. NEARING *STAGE ONE SOLIDITY...*

UM...WASN'T TALKING TO *YOU*, GRO-RILLA. WAS TALKING TO--

WHOA! *CLOSE* ONE! GOOD THING I'M *INTANGIBLE!*

SWWPSHH

EH. *MISSED* HIM. NOT ENOUGH TO *GRAB* YET.

YEAH-- MISS YOU GUYS, *TOO!*

INCREASING TO 640...

SPECTROGRAM REGISTERING DEFINITE MASS PARTICULATION!

IT'S GOING TO *WORK.*

SPEEDBALL IS GOING TO BE PULLED *BACK* TO THIS WORLD...

ALL SYSTEMS *STABILIZED.*

WON'T BE LONG NOW...

...ALONG WITH THE *HUMAN...*

"A LOT MORE WHERE I CAME FROM," YOU SAID!

NOW I *UNDERSTAND!* NOW I *SEE!* I *MUST* SEE *MORE!*

...AND THEY'LL *INVADE* THE HUMAN DIMENSION...

WHAT'S THE PINK PRIMATE *UP TO?*

NO GOOD!

HE JUST BETTER LEAVE SOME OF THAT MASKED MONKEY FOR *US!*

...AND *EXECUTE* SPEEDBALL...

FLINGIN' FECES, GHOST--*STOP!* YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING!* YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING *INTO--!*

WHAT?!

...AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

SPANK THE MONKEY! WHAT--?

SPIDER-MONKEY-- YOU DID THIS? YOU SABOTAGED US?!

I'M PRETTY SURE THE FLUX CAPACITOR IN MY HANDS ANSWERS THAT, SO...

SPEEDBALL DOESN'T DESERVE TO DIE. HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

KRENCH

HE FAVORED HUMANS OVER HIS OWN!

WUZ GONNA STOP US FROM FINDIN' A CURE FER SUZIE!

HE WAS STOPPING AN INVASION BASED ON LIES...

...AND HELPING HIS FRIENDS GET HOME.

I'M SORRY, SUE-- BUT IF THERE IS A CURE, IT'LL STILL BE THERE AFTER SPEEDBALL'S PARDONED AND WE REBUILD--

DON'T SPEAK TO MY SISTER, SPIDER! YOU HAVEN'T GOT THAT RIGHT ANY MORE!

LUCKY ANY OF US ARE SPEAKING TO YOU!

WHAT DOES HE CARE? WE'RE THE BAD GUYS NOW! WE'RE EVIL!

NOT EVIL--JUST WRONG.

IF I WERE YOU, SON, I'D GET AS LOW AS POSSIBLE, BE AS SUBMISSIVE AS POSSIBLE, AND BEG FOR AS MUCH FORGIVENESS AS POSSIBLE...

...AND MAYBE WE'LL LET YOU LIVE.

I DOUBT IT.

I WEB DOWN *CAPTAIN AMERICA* FIRST--THEIR *BEST FIGHTER.*

SUE IS SECOND. HELL HATH NO FURY AS A SHE-SIMIAN *SCORNED.* OR *UNCURED.* SAME DIFFERENCE.

GUESS I *WANT* TO LIVE, AFTER ALL...

...WHICH IS ABOUT TO BECOME *VERY DIFFICULT!* NO WAY I CAN BEAT *ALL* THESE APES AT ONCE!

WON'T MATTER IF I FIGHT *HARD...*

...I NEED TO FIGHT *SMART.*

THWIPP!

I NEED AN H-BOMB.

HULK SMASH!

I'M *LONG GONE* BEFORE THEY EVEN HAVE TIME TO *START* LOOKING FOR ME.

TROUBLE IS, THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO *STOP.* I JUST BOUGHT MYSELF A *WORLD* OF HURT... BUT IT'S THE ONLY WORLD I'VE *GOT.*

I'M AN *OUTCAST* NOW--HATED AND HUNTED.

APE

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME--I FEEL *GOOD!*

MY UNCLE BEN USED TO SAY "WITH GREAT *POWER* COMES GREAT *RESPONSIBILITY."* I THOUGHT THAT MEANT MAKING *HARD CHOICES* AND DOING WHAT OTHERS *WOULDN'T.* AND IT *DOES.*

EXCEPT SOMETIMES THAT MEANS *MERCY,* NOT *VENGEANCE.*

SOMETIMES THAT'S THE *HARDEST* CHOICE OF ALL.

SPIDER-MONKEY WAS NEVER THE GREATEST HERO IN THIS UNIVERSE--BUT AFTER TODAY MAYBE I'M A LITTLE MORE LIKE THE GREATEST HERO IN THE *HUMAN* UNIVERSE.

MAYBE I'M A LITTLE MORE LIKE *SPIDER-MAN.*

EPILOGUE.

TWO DAYS LATER, EARLY MORNING...

NEWS STAND

FWHUMP!

YES! YES--!

...ILY BANANA ...IDER-MONKEY

THREAT OR MENACE?

I DID IT! I CROSSED OVER TO THE APE UNIVERSE!

GLAD MY HOMEWORLD PUTS A LITTLE BOUNCE IN YOUR STEP--YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE.

WHAT'S UP WITH SPIDEY--?

YOU SIMIAN SIMPLETON!

YOU DON'T SEEM TO COMPREHEND THAT AFTER YEARS OF CONTROLLING AND COMMANDING SUPER-POWERED PRIMATES OF MY OWN...

...THE RED GHOST IS DESTINED TO RULE THIS UNIVERSE!

WELL, THEN--THIS IS VERY AWKWARD!

AFTER ALL, WE WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IF YOU HADN'T WEAKENED THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS AND POINTED THE WAY FOR US!

AND SUCH A WORLD--SO MUCH TO DO! BUT FIRST...

...LET'S EAT!!!

THE END--OR IS IT?

PRESENTING A CHAPTER SO *SHORT* THERE'S NO SPACE FOR A *RECAP*, SO WE JUST *HAD* TO CALL IT...

MOMENTS AFTER THE ANCIENT ONE MAGICALLY TRANSPORTED CHARLES DARWIN--*YES*, THE CHARLES DARWIN--TO THE PRESENT-DAY APE-MARVEL UNIVERSE!

BANANAS

BANANAS

GET THE MONSTER!

PILE ON!

I SAID STAY BACK! AARRHHH!

IT CAN'T BEAT US ALL!

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YO, *UGLY MOB!* SUCK ON *THIS!*

WHAT INFERNAL *DEVILTRY--?*

GRAB HOLD, FRIGLY!

MY FLAME-BARRIER WON'T LAST FOREVER!

AWAY, DEMON!

NOW I KNOW THE FATE TO WHICH THAT MAGICIAN CONSIGNED ME! I AM DEAD! IN HELL! TO REPENT MY SINS FOREVER!

IF I HAD BUT OBEYED FATHER AND ENTERED THE CLERGY--!

AWW, MAN UP, YOU BIG BABY! I'M SAVING YOU!

GHAAAH!

TELL ME! TELL ME WHAT TORTURES YOU MEAN TO INFLICT UPON THIS WRETCHED FORM!

I MIGHT STAB YOU WITH MY PITCHFORK IF YOU DON'T STOP TALKING LIKE DR. DOOM.

LISTEN, HANDSOME--

--YOU'RE NOT DEAD, YOU'RE IN *MONKHATTAN.*

AND IF YOU *REALLY* NEVER HEARD OF THE *SIMIAN TORCH--*

--THEN IT'S JUST MY *PUBLICIST* WHO HAS TO WORRY ABOUT *HELL.*

THIS *PLACE--* THESE *MACHINES--!* IT IS ALL TOO MUCH TO *GRASP--!*

AWW, DO YOU EVER TAKE *ANYTHING* IN STRIDE?

HEY, *SORRY.* IF I LOOKED LIKE YOU...I MEAN, *YOU* KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

LISTEN, WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A *CURE.*

CURE? FOR WHAT POSSIBLE *MALADY?*

OH, YOU *POOR MAN.* YOU'RE AS *DEFORMED* AS *I.*

DEFORMED? BUT *YOU...* YOU ARE SO *LOVELY...*

YOU KNOW. UHH, *MONSTERISM.* LIKE, MY *SISTER* HAS IT AND...

DUDE. MY *SISTER.*

OF COURSE. OF COURSE. I MEANT NOTHING. I--

I PERMITTED EVENTS TO UNDO MY *FACULTIES.* INSTEAD OF ABSORBING AND CATALOGUING THE VARIETY YOUR STRANGE WORLD OFFERS, I *RECOILED.*

I BEG *FORGIVENESS* AND VOW TO REMAIN A HUMBLE INSTRUMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY--

--WHATE'ER *PROVOCATIONS* MAY AWAIT!

MEANWHILE IN APESGARD...

HA! LOOK! THE BALD APE IS GETTING HIS *WITS* ABOUT HIM! WELL, I SHALL FIX *THAT!*

IS THIS ANOTHER OF YOUR DREARY SCHEMES TO CLAIM THE THRONE OF APESGARD, L-OOK-1?

FIRST, APECHANTRESS, MY SCHEMES ARE NEVER "*DREARY.*" AND *SECOND...*

...I *HAVE* NO SCHEME. SOMETIMES IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE GOD OF MISCHIEF TO MERELY BE...

"...A JERKWEED."

GHAAARH!

NGHUUUUH!
GEEEEH!
HRUHHHH!
WHAT...? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
WE ARE CHARLES DARWIN.
AND WE EVOLVE.
GRAAAAH!

GRUNT LINE

MY NAME'S ROY REYNA, AND I'M A PRETTY TYPICAL KID.

EVEN IF A SUPER-STRONG GORILLA IS SITTING ON ME RIGHT NOW.

YOUR MAGILLAS WILL LET HIM GO ONCE WE'RE GONE? CROSS YOUR HEART AND HOPE I'LL KILL YOU?

OF COURSE. THEY'RE WELL TRAINED.

THEN LET'S MAKE LIKE A BANANA AND SPLIT!

THINK THAT'S WEIRD? THEN YOU DON'T HAVE A MAGIC MEXICAN WRESTLING MASK THAT CHANGES YOU INTO A SUPER-GORILLA NAMED APE X LIKE I DO!

I, UM...JUST DON'T HAVE IT RIGHT NOW.

HEY, SPEEDBALL, WE... WE WOULD'VE MADE A GREAT TEAM, HUH?

EVEN WEIRDER--THAT MASK ACTUALLY FELL FROM THE STARS! IT CAME FROM A WHOLE PLANET OF APES, IN A WHOLE OTHER DIMENSION!

THAT'S WHERE THIS SPEEDBALL CAME FROM...

THE BEST.

...AND NOW HE'S GOING BACK--SOMETHING HE'S NOT EXACTLY THRILLED ABOUT.

I KNOW WHAT HE MEANS. I EVER GET THE CHANCE TO LEAVE L.A., I AM SO GONE.

THE RED GHOST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEING HIS DESTINY TO RULE THE MONKEYVERSE--BUT STUFF LIKE THAT NEVER WORKS. THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN.

YOU'D THINK A LOCO LIKE HIM WOULD'VE FIGURED THAT OUT A LONG TIME BACK.

'COURSE, SPEEDBALL HELPED THE GHOST 'CAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME.

CAN'T SAY THAT I AM, THOUGH. I GOT THIS FEELING--IT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD EARLIER--THAT THESE SUPER-APES AREN'T REALLY EVIL.

THEY'RE JUST... LOYAL.

OOK--?

THIS MAN--THIS MONKEY!

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WRITER
REILLY BROWN
PENCILS (PAGES 1-9)
JOE SUITOR
ART (PAGES 10-33)
WONG & PARIS
INKS (PAGES 1-9)
FABELA & MOSSA
COLOR (PAGES 1-9)
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NOT TO MENTION MAJORLY *PISSED* THEY'VE BEEN *LEFT BEHIND!*

WOO-AKK!

CHEE-CHEE!

WROAHRR!

LUCKY ALL THE NEIGHBORS ARE STAYING *INSIDE*, BUT SOMEONE BETTER *DO SOMETHING* BEFORE SOMEONE GETS *HURT!* SOMEONE LIKE...

...ME.

BUT-- REMEMBER THAT MASK? I CAN HANDLE THIS!

WELL, NOT *ME* BUT, Y'KNOW, THE *OTHER* ME!

THE GODZILLA GORILLA!

EL SOBRESIMIO!

APEX!

OKAY, MY MONKEY AMIGOS-- TIME FOR A LITTLE SIMIAN SMACK-DOWN!

KWANNG!

WHAT--?!

THWOK!

HUH...?

GHUH--!

NEED TO BREATH... PAINFUL TO BREATH... NEED TO BREATH...

STUPID MONKEY-MAN!

GOT... GOT THAT RIGHT...

WAIT...

WHO SAID THAT?

SCENT IS GONE! MASTER IS GONE!

PEOTR WILL STARVE! PEOTR WILL BE CAGED!

MASTER TRICKSIES US!

IGOR LOVE TRICKSIES!

FIND MASTER! LOOK EVERYWHERE!

GREAT GOOGLY MOOGLY! I...I THINK I CAN HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS!

DIDN'T KNOW I COULD DO THAT--NOT LIKE I EVER TRIED. GUESS I JUST NEEDED SOME PRIMAL PAIN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY INNER APE.

AND IF I CAN UNDERSTAND THEM...

HEY! GRAPE APE AND THE BANANA BUNCH!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING--RAISE YOUR HANDS!

SPEED LIMIT 25

WANTS TO PLAY? IGOR WILL PLAY!

STUPID MONKEY-MAN!

SCRATCH HIM! BITE HIM! FUN, FUN, FUN!

NOT BETTER!

GOT TO GET THAT INNER APE THING AGAIN--FAST!

HOW'D I DO IT? WHAT IT FEEL LIKE--?

NO! STOP! FRIEND!

FRIEND?

FRIEND?

FRIENDSY?

WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE...

TRICKSY--?

NO.

NO TRICKS. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU OR CAGE YOU OR ANYTHING.

TRUST ME.

TARGETS SIGHTED AND CONFIRMED.

ALL UNITS CONVERGE AND *SUBDUE-- FULL FORCE NECESSARY!*

S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS? NO-- NOT S.H.I.E.L.D. WHAT'S THAT *NEW* GROUP?

H.A.M.M.E.R.!

NOT GOOD...

NO! MEN *CHAIN* PEOTR! *CAGE* PEOTR!

THIS ONE'S OUR *MAGNO-RANGUTAN!*

PLASTICS!

IGOR KNEW! *TRICKSY!*

NO! I DIDN'T... THIS ISN'T...

I'LL *PROTECT* YOU! GET *BEHIND* ME!

ZKOOM!

BIG BOY'S GOT *BITE!* GET THOSE *DRAIN-LINES* ON HIM!

NGH!

SUDDENLY *WEAK*...KNEES *BUCKLING*...FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HIT BY A...

...HAMMER...

FRONT LINE. NEW YORK'S MOST OUTSPOKEN, UNCOMPROMISING, UNCOMMERCIAL NEWSPAPER.

THESE ARE CELL-PHONE IMAGES OF FEDERAL AGENTS TAKING AWAY KNOWN SUPER-MENACES...

...OVER A WEEK OLD, I MIGHT ADD, POTTER.

EXACTLY! THIS IS A STORY THAT'S FALLEN THROUGH THE CRACKS, MR. ROBERTSON!

SEE THE MONKEY IN THE MASK? EARLIER THAT SAME EVENING HE WAS FIGHTING THE SUPER-APES! HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS!

HIS NAME'S APE X, AND HE'S FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

A DIMENSION OF INTELLIGENT, SUPER-POWERED APES?

YEAH! HOW'D YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE I KNOW WHEN MY LEG'S BEING PULLED.

THIS IS FRONT LINE NOT GRUNT LINE, MS. POTTER, AND I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY TIME THAN--

BUT, BUT I'M NOT JOKING! I'M SERIOUS! I HAVE A SOURCE!

WHO?

UM... CONFIDENTIAL.

NO. SEASONED ***PROFESSIONALS*** WHO HAVE EARNED MY ***TRUST*** HAVE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES, NOT OVER-EAGER ***INTERNS*** OUT TO IMPRESS THEIR EDITOR AND DOING A VERY ***BAD JOB.***

TRY AGAIN.

MR. MARTIN BLANK.

MARTY BLANK? AS IN--THE ***GIBBON?***

MS. POTTER... ***JANE***...YOU'RE ***VERY*** PROMISING, ***VERY*** TALENTED. ***BUT...***

BLANK'S TRIED BEING A ***HERO***, A ***VILLAIN***, AND HAS BEEN FIRED FROM EVERY ***FAST FOOD CHAIN*** IN THIS CITY. HE'S HARDLY ***CREDIBLE.***

YOU GOTTA GIVE ME SOMETHING MORE.

HE SAYS THE ***INITIATIVE'S*** INVOLVED.

AND IF YOU CAN GET NORMAN OSBORN'S INITIATIVE TO ANSWER ANY OF *YOUR* QUESTIONS, THAT'S A TRICK I'D LIKE TO *SEE.* MEANTIME...

MAYOR JAMESON FOR YOU, MR. ROBERTSON.

...WE HAVE A *PAPER* TO PUT OUT, AND YOU HAVE *MAIL* TO DELIVER.

COMING.

BE MY *BFF* AND *FINISH* THIS, WILL YOU, YELLEN?

INTERNS UNITE!

HEY! WHAT? *WAIT!* I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF--

WHY CAN'T *YOU?*

BECAUSE I'VE GOT A *MONKEY* TO GET OFF MY BACK!

MY NAME'S MARTY BLANK. THEY CALL ME THE GIBBON.

IF YER WONDERING WHY I LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT--WELL, MY GIRLFRIEND'S A SCIENTIST. BEEN TRYING TO MAKE ME A LITTLE MORE HUMAN-Y AND A LITTLE LESS GIBBON-Y.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S WORKIN' THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

WHAT DID YOUR *EDITOR* SAY?

HE SAID HE'D LIKE TO SEE US TALK TO THE *INITIATIVE!*

CAMP HAMMOND. THE INITIATIVE'S CONNECTICUT TRAINING BASE.

NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

C'MON, TASKMASTER YOU KNOW ME...

THANKS FOR COMING BY.

GUARDS WILL SEE YOU OUT.

BARNEY'S BACON BISTRO. GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT.

A NEW SUPER HERO... POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT COVER-UP...A WHOLE DAMN UNIVERSE OF INTELLIGENT MONKEYS...

THIS COULD'VE BEEN BIG, MARTY. THIS COULD'VE BEEN... IT, Y'KNOW? FOR BOTH OF US.

WHEN YOU SAW THAT APE X STUFF ONLINE, YOU SHOULD'VE REACHED OUT TO SOME-ONE MORE EXPERIENCED AND SAVVY, LIKE SALLY FLOYD OR EVEN BETTY BRANT...

I DID. THOSE NAMES AND A LOT MORE.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO RETURNED MY CALL.

AND I GOT YOUR VOICE-MAIL BY MISTAKE.

THANK YOU! YOU CAN STOP ANY TIME--!

NO. I THINK WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

AND YOU ARE--?

FAHNBULLAH EDDY.

GORILLA GIRL! SPEEDBALL TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!

ALL GOOD THINGS!

YOU'RE THE GIBBON, RIGHT? SAW YOU BACK AT BASE, SNUCK OUT AND FOLLOWED YOU. YOU CLOSE WITH MY BOY SPEEDBALL?

THOUGHT SO, BUT THE LAST FEW DAYS I LEAVE MESSAGES, HE DOESN'T CALL, DOESN'T WRITE...

...LIKE HE FELL OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

SO YOU KNOW?

I KNOW WHAT SPEEDY-B TOLD ME. I KNOW APE X SHOWING UP CAN'T BE A GOOD THING.

HOLD IT--MY REPORTER-SENSE IS TINGLING! ISN'T APE X ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?

ONE OF THE BEST. HE JUST ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.

BUT IF HE IS--IF THIS X IS THE SAME X I KNEW ON MY "LOVELY" TRIP TO THE MONKEYVERSE...

...THAT MEANS A DIMENSIONAL DOOR HAS OPENED--AND THAT'S BAD.

VERY BAD.

BONE-BREAKING.

BLOOD-LETTING.

FLESH-RENDING.

BAD.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TALKING MONKEYS HERE, RIGHT?

TALKING MONKEYS, FLYING MONKEYS, SPIDER MONKEYS, MUTANT MONKEYS, VAMPIRE MONKEYS...

AND AS SILLY AS ALL THAT SOUNDS-- SCRATCH ITS SURFACE AND YOU'LL GET YOUR ARM TORN OFF BY THE MOST BRUTAL, VICIOUS CIVILIZATION I EVER BARELY ESCAPED FROM!

I, UH...

AM I SUPPOSED TO LAUGH OR SCREAM?

MY POINT EXACTLY!

SO YOU THINK THEY DID IT? OPENED A DIMENSIONAL DOOR?

I THINK MAYBE IT'S WORSE--I THINK MAYBE WE OPENED IT FOR THEM.

SEE, MY GIRLFRIEND-- WONDERFUL GAL, CERTIFIED GENIUS, CURRENTLY AT A CONFERENCE IN OSLO WHERE I'D REALLY RATHER NOT RUIN HER QUALITY GEEK TIME...

SHE INVENTED-- THEN DESTROYED-- THE ORIGINAL PORTAL TO THE MONKEYVERSE. BUT SHE WAS DEBRIEFED BY S.H.I.E.L.D....

...SO NOW THAT INFO BELONGS TO H.A.M.M.E.R. AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT DARTH OSBORN'S BOYS MIGHT HAVE DONE WITH IT.

THIS...THIS COULD BE THE BIGGEST THING SINCE THE SKRULL INVASION! THIS COULD BE THE NEXT INVASION!

WE NEED HELP! WE NEED THE FANTASTIC FOUR! AND THE AVENGERS! AND THE ARMY!

ALREADY HAD THOSE DOORS SLAMMED IN MY FACE.

WE COULD GO KNOCK AGAIN, BUT...

NO. WE NEED *PROOF!* WE NEED...

WE NEED *APE X!*

FIND *HIM,* FIND OUT WHAT'S *GOING ON*--PEOPLE WILL LISTEN THEN!

THINK IT'S JUST GET *IN,* GET *OUT,* AND GET THE *STORY,* REPORTER-GIRL?

MARTY AND ME, WE GOT SOME *MILES* BEHIND US. MAYBE--*MAYBE*--WE COULD DO THIS. BUT *YOU...*

...ALL YOU'LL GET IS *KILLED.*

YOU WANT *MILES?* I'VE LIVED THROUGH THREE INVASIONS, A GIANT MONSTER, *COUNTLESS* SUPER-VILLAIN ATTACKS, AND TWO--*TWO*--BOYFRIENDS WHO WERE *MUSICIANS.*

I'M A *NEW YORKER,* LADY.

SO--DO I *STAY* OR DO I *GO?*

ALL RIGHT... YOU'RE IN. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET THIS.

OKAY, BUT-- GO *WHERE?* ANYONE GOT AN *IDEA?*

OH, I'M SURE H.A.M.M.E.R. WOULD BE *HAPPY* TO TELL US WHERE THEY TOOK APE X! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS *ASK!*

OR YOU COULD ASK *ME.*

HELLO, ROY. HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

MY NAME'S *MILTON HORAK.* MOST PEOPLE CALL ME *MR. HORAK...*

...OR SIR...

...BUT YOU MAY CALL ME *MILTON.*

I'M THE *DIRECTOR* OF THIS FACILITY. APPOINTED BY *NORMAN OSBORN* HIMSELF.

OLD FRIEND, NORMAN. *RIVALS,* ONCE UPON A TIME. BANKRUPTED ME *TWICE...*

BUT AS THEY SAY--WHAT, UM... WHAT DOESN'T *KILL* YOU...

???

ANYHOO...

THIS *MASK* YOU WERE WEARING WHEN WE FOUND YOU, ROY--VERY *LUCHA LIBRE.*

OH, DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED! I'VE "THROWN DOWN" SOME IN *MY* DAY, TOO!

DID YOU KNOW MANY OF THE WORLD'S *BEST MINDS* HAVE BEEN *STUDYING* IT? AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY FOUND?

NOTHING! NO DETECTABLE RADIATION, SORCERY, OR AURA OF ANY KIND! IT'S A COMPLETELY *NORMAL* LEATHER MASK!

EXCEPT IT CAN'T BE BURNED, CUT, OR TORN--AND WHEN YOU AND YOU ALONE PUT IT ON YOU TRANSFORM INTO A SUPER-POWERED *SIMIAN.*

SUPER-POWERED... HMM...

YOU NEVER *REGISTERED,* DID YOU?

WELL...LET'S KEEP THAT *OUR LITTLE SECRET* FOR NOW, EH?

IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE ALL *ABOUT* HERE, ROY--AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT A *MIND READER* ARE YOU?

ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT.

SO WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS GO ON A LITTLE *TOUR,* SEE A FEW THINGS...

...MAYBE GET THAT *EYE* OF YOURS LOOKED AT. AFTER ALL...

...I HEAR YOU'RE *QUITE* ACCIDENT-PRONE.

I SEE JESSE AND JEREMY HAVE ALREADY HELPED YOU INTO OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART *PERSONAL TRANSPORT*--SO SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE *RIDE!*

FORGIVE THE *RESTRAINTS*--IT'S FOR YOUR OWN *PROTECTION.* SO MANY THINGS HERE THAT SHOULDN'T BE *TOUCHED.*

HAMMER

AND WHERE EXACTLY *IS* HERE, YOU MAY ASK?

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING THAT PRETTY CLOSE TO THE VEST, I'LL ADMIT, HECK, MOST OF H.A.M.M.E.R. DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS OPERATION.

BUT I LIKE YOU, ROY. I THINK WE'LL BE FRIENDS. SO JUST FOR YOU...

...WELCOME TO PROJECT A.E.S.O.P.!

NOW, SOME BELIEVE PROJECT A.E.S.O.P. TO BE NO MORE THAN THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PLAN FOR FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT IN THE *DALLAS* AREA.

BUT THAT'S A HANDY *MISDIRECTION,* TO SAY THE *LEAST.*

NO, WHAT WE DO HERE--WHAT OUR *PURPOSE* IS--

P...PRISON...

WHAT--? OH, NO, ROY! NONONONO!

WE ARE AN ***ALTERNATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT*** FACILITY!

WORLD LEADER, IF YOU ASK ME--BUT THEN, I'M ***BIASED***.

OF COURSE, OUR UNIQUE EXPERTISE CAN BE USED FOR THE ***REDIRECTION*** AND ***REPURPOSING*** OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL'S... ***EXCESS ENERGY***, SHALL WE SAY?

AND IF THEY'RE A KNOWN ***FELON*** OR PUBLIC ***MENACE***--WELL, I CAN ASSURE YOU...

...***NO ONE*** WILL EVER ***ESCAPE*** FROM A.E.S.O.P. YOU HAVE MY ***WORD*** ON THAT.

NOW, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ***THINKING***, ROY--"WHAT DOES ALL THIS CRAZY ENERGY STUFF HAVE TO DO WITH ***ME?***"

WELL, HERE AT PROJECT A.E.S.O.P. WE'RE LOOKING ***BEYOND*** ESTABLISHED ENERGY SOURCES--BEYOND ***WHAT IS***--AND FOCUSING ON ***"WHAT IF--?"***

WHAT IF WE COULD GET ENERGY FROM OTHER ***PLANETS?*** OTHER ***WORLDS?***

OTHER DIMENSIONS!

ALREADY SAID I... I DON'T KNOW--

HOLD THAT THOUGHT!

BEFORE YOU SAY ANOTHER WORD, I WANT TO ***SHOW*** YOU SOMETHING...

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE A *FAMILIAR FACE.*

OUR AGENTS INTERCEPTED IT NOT LONG AGO. PUT UP *QUITE* A FIGHT. *ASTOUNDING* WEAPONRY.

DON'T WORRY-- WE'VE ALREADY *REMOVED* ALL ITS OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.

SOFT-BELLIED BALD *BABOONS!* YOU THINK I AM HELPLESS? *HARMLESS?*

YOU WILL SUBMIT TO THE LORD OF THE *SILICON JUNGLE!* YOU WILL FEEL THE WRATH OF *OOKTRON!*

"OOKTRON." THE ULTRON OF YOUR WORLD.

FASCINATING PIECE OF ENGINEERING, I'M TOLD. THE TECHNICIANS ARE LEARNING *SO MUCH* FROM THE DISMANTLING.

REMINDS ME OF THAT *JOKE*-- MAN SEES A THREE-LEGGED *PIG.* FARMER SAYS THE PIG SAVED HIS WHOLE FAMILY FROM A FIRE. MAN ASKS IF THAT'S HOW THE PIG LOST ITS LEG.

"OH, NO," FARMER SAYS. "BUT A PIG LIKE THAT, YOU DON'T EAT ALL AT *ONCE!*"

TELL ME ABOUT THE *APE UNIVERSE,* ROY.

I DON'T... DON'T KNOW...

DON'T LIE TO ME!

I *KNOW* IT EXISTS! I *KNOW* THERE'S A WAY THERE! OOKTRON *PROVES* ALL THAT!

I'VE *SEEN* THE SIMIAN SPEEDBALL'S *DEBRIEFING* TAPES! I *KNOW* APE X WAS HIS FRIEND! HIS *PARTNER!*

I *KNOW* APE X DID *NOT* COME HERE WITH SPEEDBALL! I KNOW *YOU* ARE *APE X!*

HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

AND NONE OF THAT CHILDISH *NONSENSE* ABOUT A MASK FALLING FROM THE *SKY!*

DON'T *INSULT* ME, ROY! I THOUGHT WE WERE *FRIENDS!*

GLKK--!

WHY =KHH= WHY IS IT...SO IMPORTANT...?

BECAUSE IT HAS EVERYTHING WE *NEED.*

AND BECAUSE IT'S A COSMIC *JOKE.* IT'S JUST ANIMALS *PLAY-ACTING* AT BEING *PEOPLE.*

NO ONE WILL MISS IT WHEN IT'S *GONE.*

GHUUH?!

TELL YOU WHAT: YOU *THINK* TONIGHT--THINK *HARD*--AND I'LL SEE YOU IN THE *MORNING*. ONE MORE *CHANCE*. BECAUSE I *LIKE* YOU.

I'M YOUR *BEST FRIEND* HERE, ROY--OR YOUR *WORST ENEMY*. YOUR CHOICE.

WHICH *REMINDS* ME...

HAVE A DOCTOR SEE TO ROY'S *EYE* AND, UM...HIS *BROKEN ARM*.

ARM? HIS ARM'S NOT BROKEN.

WELL...

DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

LATER.

THERE ARE ONLY *TWO WAYS* THIS CAN GO.

BOTH WAYS I'M *DEAD*.

YOU DID AS I **INSTRUCTED**, MILTON?

YES! OF COURSE! TO... TO THE **LETTER**, MR. OSBORN.

UM, **SIR.**

HE'S PHYSICALLY **EXHAUSTED**, EMOTIONALLY **SHATTERED**, COMPLETELY **BROKEN.**

WHAT... WHAT **NOW?**

NOW WE SEE IF HE'S ANY **USE** TO US.

POK!

LOOKS **GOOD.**

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME HERE ON WHAT AMOUNTS TO AN INITIATIVE **FIELD TRIP!**

ONLY A **FEW** GOT INVITED...GIVEN A **DISNEYLAND** TOUR, ALL SMILES AND SOUND BITES.

MADE ME WONDER WHAT THEY **DIDN'T** SHOW US.

WISH THEY'D SHOWN YOU AN EASIER WAY TO **SNEAK IN!** THOSE **AIR SHAFTS** AREN'T EXACTLY **USER-FRIENDLY!**

SO THIS IS WHERE THEY TOOK **APE X,** HUH?

GOTTA BE--IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I KNOW DOING *DIMENSIONAL* STUFF.

AND HE'S GOTTA BE *CLOSE.*

WHY DO YOU SAY *THAT?*

THEY NEVER SHOWED US *THIS* AREA.

MR. HORAK, SIR-- *INTRUDER ALERT,* C-LEVEL!

PATCH ME THROUGH TO *DETENTION.*

THE *APE X* SUBJECT IS STILL SAFELY IN ROOM 17, MR. HORAK. NO CHANGE.

UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL? YES, SIR-- WE'LL INVESTIGATE *RIGHT AWAY.*

WE'VE *GOT* TO BUY LOTTERY TICKETS WHEN WE GET OUT OF HERE! OUR *LUCK*--

JUST *ENDED*.

CHANCES ARE SLIM TO NONE MY INITIATIVE *PASSCODE* WILL--

DIP-DOP-BOOP-BOOP

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

CHNNG!

NO, *THIS*-- THIS I *LIKE!*

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I'M SURE THINGS WILL GET *WORSE* SOONER OR--

KONK

EVEN *I'M* SURPRISED HOW FAST I MOVE.

ALL *ADRENALINE.* LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN *STRIPPED AWAY.*

I KNOW *THREE THINGS.*

I KNOW ANY SECOND AN ENTIRE *ARMY* WILL BE AFTER ME.

I KNOW THEY'LL *KILL* ME.

AND I KNOW WHERE MY *MASK* IS.

I CAN *FEEL* IT-- DRAWING ME *TOWARD* IT.

IF I CAN JUST GET *TO* IT...

WELL, WELL-- STEP AWAY FROM OUR *POST* AND LOOK WHAT *HAPPENS*, JESSE--ROY SOMEHOW *SLIPS* HIS ROOM!

THAT'S *NOT GOOD.* NOT GOOD FOR *ANY* OF US.

YOU SHOULD'A STAYED *PUT*, KID-- *LOTSA* WAYS YOU CAN GET *HURT* OUT HERE!

TOO *CLOSE.* NOT STOPPING. NOT GOING BACK.

NOT AFRAID...

THE HELL--?!

NOOO--!

GRRAAH--!

BY DOZE! HE BRODE BY DOZE!

NOT MY BIGGEST CONCERN RIGHT NOW.

KID! HEY, KID--STOP RUNNING! WE'RE FRIENDS!

NO MORE RUNNING.

NO MORE NEW FRIENDS.

NEVER FIRED A GUN LIKE THAT BEFORE.

NEVER FIRED ANY GUN BEFORE.

RIPS THROUGH METAL LIKE PAPER.

BIH-ZZOOM!

BUT MY MASK ISN'T HURT.

LIKE MAGIC.

ME, ON THE OTHER HAND...

DISLOCATED MY GOOD SHOULDER. BROKE SOME RIBS. CONCUSSION, I'M SURE...

MOVEMENT-- PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE QUESTION...

SO CLOSE...BUT THEN, I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVEN GET THIS FAR...

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?

I HOPE IT HELPS...

IT'S LIKE SWALLOWING ELECTRICITY.

THIS ICY-HEAT FILLS MY CHEST, THEN FLASHES INTO MY ARMS AND LEGS.

BRUISES FADE. CUTS HEAL. BONES MEND.

IN NO TIME AT ALL, I'M GOOD AS NEW...

...THEN I'M SOMETHING *ELSE* ENTIRELY.

MUCH BETTER. THANKS.

I BELIEVE THIS IS WHERE YOU SAY "I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL EVER REPAY *YOU*," AND I SAY "AN EXCLUSIVE *INTERVIEW* WOULD DO IT!"

ABE EHGZ-BEET *JAYD POTTER* FRUB *FRODT LIDE.*

MARTY-- DON'T SAY *ANOTHER WORD!* IT WAS HARD ENOUGH TAKING YOU SERIOUS *BEFORE!*

SORRY ABOUT THE *NOSE... MARTY,* IS IT?

UH-HUH. YOU'RE *ROY?*

YEAH. HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

YOU JUZT... REBIDE BE OF ZUBWUD I WHUDZ DEW...

ALL UNITS-- INTRUDERS ON C-LEVEL!

FULL FORCE AUTHORIZED! REPEAT--

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK WE *HAVE?*

NOT ENOUGH. NO WAY WE'LL FIND OUR WAY *OUT* OF THIS MAZE...

I USED TO THINK THE GOOD GUYS *ALWAYS WON*--BUT I'M LEARNING THAT'S *NOT TRUE.*

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE GOOD GUYS *ALWAYS TRY.* BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T EVEN *TRY,* THEN THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE, WELL...

...IT *ENDS.*

HOW SHOULD WE *DO* THIS? I'M THINKING *HALLWAY.*

I'B THINGING *HIDING!*

FRIENDSY...

GONNA BE A *FRENZY,* ALL RIGHT. NOT GOING DOWN *EASY...*

NO. NO, I SAID "*FRIENDSY.*"

MOMENTS LATER...

THE *SUPER-APES* ARE *CLOSE*, EASY TO *FREE*, AND EAGER TO TURN ON THEIR HUMAN *TORMENTORS*. IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP THEM ON A TELEPATHIC *LEASH*.

THEY GIVE US THE FIREPOWER TO REACH MY EVEN CRAZIER IDEA--*OOKTRON*.

OOKTRON'S STRIPPED TO THE *BONE*--BUT HE CAN STILL TAP INTO THE PROJECT'S *COMPUTERS*.

HE LOCKS DOWN SOME PASSAGEWAYS TO KEEP TROOPS *OUT*, OPENS OTHERS TO LET US *THROUGH*, GENERALLY GIVES US A *FIGHTING CHANCE*.

EVEN BETTER: HE FINDS A WAY *OUT*.

WE ZIG-ZAG THROUGH THE LEVELS, SHAKING LOOSE FROM *ONE* GUARD UNIT ONLY TO COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH *ANOTHER*.

OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO GET TO THE *EXIT* BEFORE THEY GET TO *US*.

ODDS *AGAINST*. WE'RE PINNED DOWN, SURROUNDED, AND OUT OF OPTIONS WHEN OOKTRON POPS A FORGOTTEN *MAINTENANCE HATCH*.

AND...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

AREA *SECURED*. WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY THREE MINUTES BEFORE THOSE PINK-SKINNED *PRIMATES* FIND A WAY IN. I SUGGEST WE WORK *QUICKLY*.

DOING *WHAT*? THIS ISN'T AN *EXIT*, IT'S A...A...

IT'S A *BORTAL* TO THE *ABE YOODIVERZE!*

PORTAL?

WHICH, BY DEFINITION, MAKES IT A *WAY OUT*.

OUR *ONLY* WAY. ALL TRADITIONAL EXITS ARE *HEAVILY* GUARDED. *TRUST* ME.

NEVER SHOULD'VE *BEFORE*, NEVER WILL *AGAIN*.

DOES ANYONE EVEN KNOW HOW TO *RUN* IT?

YES, I'VE DOWNLOADED THE *PROTOCOLS*.

DOE! WE CAD'T *DO* THIZ! WE CAD'T *GO* THERE! IT'Z TOO *DAYDGERUHZ!*

MORE DANGEROUS THAN CERTAIN *DEATH* PRECEEDED BY UNWARRANTED *TORTURE?*

YOU DID SEE APE X BEFORE HE *TRANSFORMED*, DIDN'T YOU?

HATE TO SAY IT--BUT I'M WITH THE *ROBOT.*

ME, TOO, YOU ESCAPED *ONCE BEFORE*, MARTY--YOU CAN DO IT *AGAIN.*

BECAUSE *THIS* TIME YOU'LL HAVE *US* WATCHING YOUR BACK.

WELL, YOU CAD'T GO *WITHOUT* ME BEGAUZE FOR SUB REASOD BY BIO-EDERGY BATCHES THE ABE YOUDIVERZE...

...ADD THE BORTAL HAS TO SABBLE IT ID ORDER TO *WORG.*

ZZAAK!

AND THAT BIO-ENERGY *SAMPLE* WAS THE ONE PIECE *MISSING* FROM THE PROTOCOLS.

YOU GREASY MONKEY--!

YES, YOU CAN ALL THANK ME FOR *SAVING* YOUR HAIRY HIDES--ON THE *OTHER SIDE!*

FUNNY THING ABOUT HAVING *NO CHOICE.*

DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY *EASIER.*

DIMENSIONAL SHIFT *IN PROGRESS!*

INSTRUMENTATION *OPERATIONAL* AND STREAMING *SMOOTH--*

WAIT. WAVELENGTH'S *REDLINING...*

UNKNOWN *INTERFERENCE...* DEFLECTION. *WORMHOLE--?*

RECALIBRATING...

GOT IT! ALL SYSTEMS *SOLID* AND *RESPONSIVE!* INITIAL *DATA-FEED* COMING IN...

THEY'RE *THROUGH*, SIR! THEY'RE ON THE *MONKEY WORLD!*

EXCELLENT! I...I WANT TO BE IN THE *DRIVER'S SEAT* AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

YES, SIR!

AND GET ME *NORMAN OSBORN* ON THE LINE.

THIS IS A *GREAT DAY* FOR US!

MR. OSBORN DOESN'T HAVE MUCH PATIENCE FOR *FAILURE.* IF SOMETHING ISN'T WORKING, HE *REMOVES* IT. IF ANYTHING IS IN HIS WAY, HE...

WELL, YOU *DON'T* WANT TO BE IN HIS WAY. HE CAN BE *MERCILESS*...SOME EVEN SAY A *MONSTER...* BUT...

BUT WHEN HE *SUCCEEDS...* WHEN YOU SUCCEED *FOR* HIM...

IT'S A *GREAT* DAY!

YES--TODAY WE PROVE OUR *WORTH!* TODAY WE JUSTIFY OUR VERY *EXISTENCE!*

CONGRATULATIONS, ROY! WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU!

OH, DOE--!

DONE WHAT, OOKTRON?

NO, NOT OOKTRON, I'M AFRAID--THIS MECHANICAL MONKEY IS JUST SOMETHING WE COBBLED TOGETHER IN THE SHOP. FOOLED YOU THOUGH, EH?

IT'S SENDING A STEADY STREAM OF INVALUABLE INFORMATION BACK TO A.E.S.O.P. EVEN AS WE SPEAK! ACROSS THE DIMENSIONAL DIVIDE! CAN YOU IMAGINE?

HORAK?!

IN RADIO SPIRIT, AT LEAST!

YES, THINGS AREN'T QUITE AS THEY SEEM, ROY!

FOR ONE, WE LET YOUR FRIENDS INTO A.E.S.O.P. LET THEM FIND YOU, FREE YOU.

COULDN'T HAVE TIMED IT BETTER! WE WERE ABOUT TO ARRANGE A "RESCUE TEAM" OF OUR OWN.

HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING AT STAKE, YOU KNOW, SO YOU'D GO THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL DOOR AND NOT MAKE SOME SILLY SUICIDAL STAND.

MUST SAY, WE DIDN'T KNOW MR. BLANK WAS THE MISSING LINK TO OUR PORTAL PUZZLE BUT...WELL, WE KNOW NOW. NOT SOMETHING WE'RE LIKELY TO FORGET, EITHER.

WUDDERFUL...

HIGH *RISKS*--HIGH *REWARDS!* JUST THE WAY MR. OSBORN *LIKES* IT!

SAME AS HE LIKES FINDING OUT WHAT A MAN IS TRULY *MADE* OF. STRIP HIM OF EVERYTHING, *BREAK* HIM, PUT HIS BACK TO THE *WALL*-- DOES HE *FIGHT* OR *FOLD?*

YOU *FOUGHT*, ROY--LIKE A *CHAMPION!*

WHAT...WHAT YOU DID TO ME... WASN'T A *GAME*, HORAK!

OF COURSE NOT-- IT WAS A *GAMBIT!* ONE THAT PLAYED OUT *PERFECTLY!*

WE NOW KNOW HOW TO *ACCESS* THE APE UNIVERSE, AND *YOU*, ROY...

YOU ARE A MUCH MORE *FORMIDABLE* INDIVIDUAL THAN BEFORE! SOMETHING THAT COULD COME IN *HANDY* IF THIS SIMIAN SOCIETY IS AS SAVAGE AS THEY SAY!

NO NEED TO *THANK* ME, MY FRIEND. AFTER ALL, WHAT DOESN'T *KILL* YOU--

CRACK

CONNECTION *TERMINATED*... DATA-STREAM'S GONE *DARK*...

NO SIGNAL *BOUNCE-BACK!*

PORTAL'S *SHUT DOWN!*

COMPLETE *MISSION FAILURE!*

MR. OSBORN FOR YOU, SIR-- LINE ONE.

GOOD RIDDANCE TO *BAD RUBBISH.*

UM...WE'RE SURE HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY BUILT-IN GIZMO THAT COULD, LIKE, GET US OUT OF THIS APE UNIVERSE AND BACK *HOME...*

RIGHT?

WUD PROBLEB--I *DOE* THE ABE YOUDIVERZE... I *BED* DUE THE ABE YOUDIVERZE...ADD *THIZ...*

THIZ IZ *DOT* THE ABE YOUDIVERZE!

NOT THE APE UNIVERSE? THEN WHERE *ARE* WE...

...AND WHAT'S THAT *SMELL?*

SBELL?

YEAH.

WASN'T GOING TO SAY, BUT-- *UGH!* WHAT *IS* IT?

DEATH.

IT'S ALL *AROUND* US. BUT THE THING I CAN'T FIGURE IS...

...IT'S GETTING *CLOSER!*

THE END--?

DUDE, TELL YOUR *APE-SELF* TO *CHILL.* L-OOK-I'S HAD *ENOUGH.*

OFLING
ORES T
OATTAC
OSLEEP

THAT IS *HARDLY ACCURATE,* SIMIAN TORCH.

MORE *FORCE* WILL BE NECESSARY TO DISCIPLINE THIS PRIMITIVE *GOD.*

THE PEYER-HARDIN-CAMPANELLA-CROSSLEY-BOWLAND EXPERIENCE PRESENTS ANOTHER CHAPTER SO SHORT THERE'S NO SPACE FOR A RECAP, SO WE JUST HAD TO CALL IT...

"TWO WEEKS AFTER APE-LOKI SPLIT THE HUMAN CHARLES DARWIN INTO THREE PARTS: AN APE-DARWIN, A REGULAR-DARWIN AND A FUTURE-DARWIN.

(YES, THAT CHARLES DARWIN, WHOM THE HUMAN ANCIENT ONE HAD SENT TO THE PRESENT-DAY APE UNIVERSE)"

PAIN LEVEL... SUFFICIENT... *NOW.*

B-DEEP

L-OOK-I, I HAVE EMPLOYED MY ADVANCED *MIND* TO IMPLANT IN YOU THIS *SOLE WEAKNESS:*

YOU SHALL *NEVER* MANAGE TO DEFEND AGAINST THIS *UNEVOLVED APE.*

SHOULD YOU DESIRE ANOTHER *BEATING* AT HIS HANDS, YOU NEED ONLY ATTACK *ME.*

DO YOU *UNDERSTAND?*

YESSSS...

THAT WAS *INCREDIBLE*...BUT WHY DID YOU ONLY WARN L-OO-KI NOT TO ATTACK *YOU?* WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE *ELSE?*

UNLESS YOU DON'T *CARE* ABOUT, *UH,* *LOWER LIFE FORMS.* YOU *DO CARE,* DON'T YOU?

YOU *CARE,* RIGHT?

LET US *LEAVE* THIS *APESGARD.* IT SMELLS LIKE *GODS.*

THROUGH THE *PORTAL. NOW.*

WE'RE LIKE INSECTS TO HIM. WHAT DO WE DO?

LET'S NOT OVERREACT. IF REED TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT VERY SMART PEOPLE ARE ALSO VERY WEIRD.

DARWIN!

DARWIN, WHY ARE YOU IN BED? GET UP.

I WOULD PREFER NOT TO.

WE DEFEATED *L-OOK-I.*

SUCH NEWS.

OH, BUT IT *IS.* HE'LL NOT TROUBLE US AGAIN.

CLEARING THE PATH FOR *JEHOVAH HIMSELF* TO TURN US INTO *BEETLES.*

DARWIN.

THIS EMOTION YOU FEEL IS *KNOWN* TO ME.

HNF. EVERYTHING IS KNOWN TO YOU.

I HAVE FELT IT ***TOO STRONGLY***...

...THE ***FUTILITY*** OF REGAINING YOUR ***INTELLECTUAL EQUILIBRIUM,*** ONLY FOR SOME GODLIKE CREATURE TO ***CRUSH*** IT WITHOUT ***WARNING.***

THIS IS THE REASON I PURSUED ***L-OOK-I,*** AND WHY I SHALL DEAL WITH THE ***ANCIENT ONE.***

BUT ***YOU*** MUST ***FORGET*** THEM. ***I*** AM IN CONTROL NOW.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING--ARE YOU SUGGESTING ***YOU*** ARE CAPABLE OF PROTECTING ME FROM ***GODS?***

NO.

I AM SAYING I HAVE ***BECOME*** A GOD. THIS IS ***MY*** TIME TO TOY WITH HUMAN DESTINY.

SURVIVAL OF THE ***FITTEST,*** AND ALL.

FAAASH

GHAAHRRR AAHHRR

UNNNH--!

INSECT! DO NOT CALL ME BY MY HUMAN NAME!

YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS--

THE LOW EVOLUTIONARY!

TO BE CONCLUDED!

PRIME EIGHT

THERE'S *DEATH* IN THE AIR.

DEATH AND THE METALLIC TANG OF *BLOOD.*

I'VE NEVER TURNED AWAY FROM IT *BEFORE*--DARWIN BE DAMNED, I'M CERTAINLY NOT STARTING *NOW.*

I'M A *MISSILE,* FOCUSED *ON THE TARGET.*

EVERYTHING ELSE IS *COLORLESS,* MOVING IN *SLOW MOTION.*

I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE *RUNNING* FROM. I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE *AFRAID* OF.

I KNOW WHAT'S *COMING.*

IT'S THE *END OF THE WORLD.*

AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I NEED TO *DO.*

Ape-okolips Now!

KARL KESEL--WRITER TODD NAUCK--PENCILER
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DAVE SHARPE--LETTERER THOMAS BRENNAN--EDITOR
STEVE WACKER--SUPERVISING EDITOR JOE QUESADA--EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY--PUBLISHER ALAN FINE--EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

WU-OOK--!

HM? IS ALL RIGHT, TONY?

HAVING HAD SOME *BAD BERRIES*, MAYBE? OR TOO MUCH *DRINK* FOR THE SWEET DREAMS?

COME-- *OOKLA* MAKE *BETTER!*

NO, IT'S JUST... *WORK.*

SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO *CHECK OUT* OR I'LL KEEP YOU UP *ALL* NIGHT LONG...

PROMISES, PROMISES!

HURRY BACK, BANANA BOY! OOKLA WISHES TO...EMBRACE CAPITALISM *CLOSER* AS SHOWN BY THE GREAT INDUSTRIALIST, *TONY STARK!*

THE COLLAPSE OF THE *UNITED SOVIET SIMIAN REPUBLICS* GAVE ME THREE THINGS I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR...

...UNTAPPED *MARKETS*, EXCELLENT *VODKA*, AND FEMALES WHO ALWAYS SAY THEIR OWN NAMES SO I DON'T HAVE TO *REMEMBER* THEM.

ANY--OR PREFERABLY *ALL*-- OF WHICH CAN GIVE ME A PLEASANT NIGHT'S *DIVERSION.* BUT THAT *DREAM...*

NO--*NOT* A DREAM. IT WAS *TOO REAL.* I CAN STILL TASTE THE *BLOOD*...SMELL THE *ROT*...

I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT I'M CERTAIN IT WAS A *TIME SLIP*--A WINDOW INTO A *WORLD THAT'S COMING.*

OVER MY *DEAD BODY!*

ATTACKING THAT *ARMY OF APES* WAS A HORDE OF *HUMAN CREATURES.*

THE HUMANS FOUND A WAY TO OUR WORLD ONCE *BEFORE.* IF THEY'VE DONE SO AGAIN THERE'LL BE SOME SIGN OF IT IN...

DIPDIPDUP

...THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE!

ITS BRANCHES REACH OUT TO EVERY *CORNER* OF THE WORLD. ITS ROOTS TAP INTO EVERY *INFORMATION-STREAM* KNOWN TO PRIMATES.

BOTTOM LINE--AND WITH ALL DUE MODESTY SINCE I *INVENTED* IT--IF THE *TREE* DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT... IT *DIDN'T HAPPEN.*

DATA-LEAVES RUSTLE AS THEY SORT THROUGH ENDLESS INPUT, SEARCHING FOR THE *SMALLEST INDICATION* OF ANY HUMAN PRESENCE.

NOTHING.

YET.

THERE'S *STILL TIME.*

I HAD THE REMNANTS OF THE DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY TO THE *HUMANVERSE* BROUGHT HERE.

I CAN *REBUILD* THE PORTAL. I'VE LEARNED FROM OUR *MISTAKES.* I CAN MAKE IT *WORK.*

I'M *SURE* OF IT.

FINISHING IT IS THE BEST WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT THE FUTURE I SAW *NEVER HAPPENS.*

WE TAKE THE FIGHT TO *THEM.* WE GO ON THE *ATTACK.* WE *STRIKE FIRST.*

EXCUSE ME, SIR--INCOMING CALL. TOP **GREEN** PRIORITY. **NICK FURRY**, DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

I HAVE **GOT** TO GET AN UNLISTED NUMBER.

PUT HIM **THROUGH**, JARVIS.

TONY, YOU FLEA-BITTEN **FREE-TRADER**--KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE **ASLEEP!**

NOT INTERRUPTING ANY BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS **NEGOTIATIONS** WITH--WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT SIBERIAN SHE-APE I SAW YOU WITH AT THE AMBASSADOR'S TREEHOUSE LAST NIGHT?

NO IDEA.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, NICK? GOT A NEW LEAD ON THE LOCATION OF **OSAMA BIN LEMUR?**

AS A MATTER OF FACT WE DO, TONY. WHICH IS WHY I WAS HOPIN' **YOU** COULD HANDLE **ANOTHER** LITTLE PROBLEM WE GOT--CALLED THE **HULK!**

THAT GREEN GORILLA'S TEARIN' UP MIDTOWN **MONKHATTAN!**

WELL, I'M KIND OF IN THE **MIDDLE** OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW--YOU KNOW, TRYING TO SAVE THE **WORLD?**

YOU AND ME **BOTH**, APE-MIGO!

OKAY, I'LL GIVE A HOLLER TO ONE OF THEM **MAGIC MONKEYS** OUT THERE--DOC DRUID OR **CLEOOK**, MAYBE. THIS MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE UP **THEIR** TREE, ANYWAY.

GUESS THAT EMERALD APE WENT ALL RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE 'CAUSE OF SOME BAD DREAM HE HAD!

AND THAT CHANGES **EVERYTHING.**

I TELL NICK TO LEAVE IT TO ME. AND BY "**ME**" I MEAN...

IRON MANDRILL

ACROSS TOWN...

HULK KNOW ROTTEN, HAIRLESS MONKEYS WILL BE *HERE!* HULK KNOW FROM *DREAM!*

WHERE ARE ROTTEN, HAIRLESS MONKEYS *NOW?!*

HULK SMASH ROTTEN, HAIRLESS MONKEYS!

Hrh? METAL MONKEY FLY IN-- LIKE IN *DREAM!*

HULK SMASH METAL MONKEY, TOO!

YOU CAN TRY, HULK!

GOT TO AGREE WITH GREENFUR--THIS IS A LITTLE TOO *DÉJA VÙ* FOR ME. I HAVE A *BAD FEELING* ABOUT IT.

AND SUDDENLY, JUST LIKE IN THE DREAM, I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I NEED TO DO...

OF COURSE, THE HULK HAS HIS *OWN* IDEAS.

HULK PEEL METAL MONKEY LIKE *BANANA!*

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR *MONKEYING AROUND.*

MAYBE WHAT I *DESERVE...*

I REROUTE POWER TO MY *HULL.* IT DOESN'T ELECTRO-SHOCK THE HULK AWAY--ONLY MAKES HIM *ANGRIER.*

AND THE *ANGRIER* THE HULK GETS--THE *STRONGER* HE GETS.

I'VE ONLY GOT SO MUCH *POWER*-- AND ONLY SO MUCH TIME BEFORE IT *RUNS OUT.* IF I DON'T BREAK *FREE...*

I'M SURPRISED TO FIND THERE'S *ANOTHER* OPTION...

HOLD, MY GREEN-FURRED FRIEND! HEED THE WORDS OF THE *SILVERBACK SURFER!*

THE ALLOYED APE-VENGER IS NOT YOUR *ENEMY!*

DID HE NOT FIGHT BY YOUR SIDE DURING THE *SECRET GORILLA WARS?*

HRGH. HULK *FORGOT.*

SHINY MONKEY ALWAYS MAKE HULK *THINK*...ALWAYS MAKE HULK'S *HEAD HURT.*

THANKS, SURFER. I GUESS I OWE YOU...

THERE IS NO NEED TO BE *SUBMISSIVE*, IRON MANDRILL. I SEEK DOMINATION OVER *NO* APE OR MONKEY--ONLY TO RIDE MY COSMIC *BANANA BOARD* ACROSS THE ENDLESS *UNIVERSE!*

THEN I'M LUCKY THE SIMIAN SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS HAPPENED TO BE IN THE *NEIGHBORHOOD.* ANY PARTICULAR *REASON?*

A *DISTURBANCE* IN THE *POWER COSMIC!* A VISION THAT FILLED MY MIND AND NOSTRILS WITH THE VERY ESSENCE OF *DEATH!*

HULK HAD *SAME DREAM!*

WE *ALL* DID--WHICH MAKES IT A LOT *MORE* THAN JUST A DREAM.

BUT WHAT COULD IT *MEAN--?*

IT MEANS THE *END OF THE WORLD* AS YOU *KNOW* IT--UNLESS YOU DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY!

AND YOU ARE--?

FURRY.

I NOTICED.

NICK FURRY, YOU MECHANIZED MAGILLA!

YOU THINK I JUST FELL OUT OF A *TREE*, LADY?

I *KNOW* NICK FURRY, AND AS MUCH AS I MIGHT WISH *OTHERWISE*--YOU ARE DEFINITELY *NOT* NICK FURRY!

SHOULD HULK *SMASH*?

NOT *THAT* NICK FURRY, YOU GREASE MONKEY! I'M HIS GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER FROM THE *FUTURE!*

I'M *NICK FURRY--2099!*

SHOULD HULK SMASH *NOW?*

PUT DOWN YOUR PULVERIZING PAW, HULK. I HAVE TRANSVERSED BOTH TIME AND SPACE AND KNOW FULL WELL THE SCENT OF *DAYS YET TO BE.*

SHE SPEAKS THE *TRUTH!*

OKAY, SO YOU'RE *TOP BANANA*, LADY--*FOR NOW.* WHAT'S *NEXT?*

NEXT--WE MEET THE *OTHERS!*

FURRY TAKES US TO AN ORDINARY *WAREHOUSE*--WITH THREE *EXTRA-ORDINARY* INDIVIDUALS INSIDE...

BLACK BOLT--KING OF THE SECRETIVE AND SELDOM-SEEN *INHOMINOIDS.* HIS BAREST WHISPER CAN STRIP THE BARK OFF AN ENTIRE *FOREST*, SO THIS HOWLER MONKEY CHOOSES TO REMAIN *MUTE.*

CLEOOK--SIMIAN SORCERESS SUPREME, A POSITION SHE RECENTLY ROSE TO AFTER THE DEATH OF HER MENTOR AND LOVER, DR. STRANGE.

PROFESSOR CHARLES EXAPIER--LEADER OF THE MUTANT *X-SIMIANS.* CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR, HE'S STILL THE WORLD'S GREATEST *TELEPATH.*

EVERY ONE OF US HAD THE *SAME DREAM*, AND HAS THE SAME *QUESTION...*

WHY SHOULD WE *TRUST* YOU?

SOMETHING PREVENTS ME FROM READING EVEN YOUR *SURFACE* THOUGHTS-- A FACT WHICH ISN'T EXACTLY *REASSURING.*

IT'S MY *OPTI-COM*, CHUCK-- SETS UP A BASIC *BRAIN BLOCK.*

FOR YOUR *OWN GOOD*, REALLY. WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE LEARNIN' TOO MUCH ABOUT THEIR *FUTURE.*

AFTER ALL, I'M HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT FUTURE *HAPPENS*-- NOT MUCK IT UP *MORE!*

THAT'S WHY I GOT YOU ALL *TOGETHER*-- ACCORDIN' TO OUR BEST CHRONO-SIMIANS, THIS IS A *DIVERGENT* POINT IN THE TIME-STREAM...

...AND THIS GROUP'S THE *PRIME EIGHT* PRIMATES WHO'LL DECIDE *WHICH WAY* IT GOES!

EIGHT? BLACK BOLT AND I ONLY COUNT SEVEN.

YEAH. ABOUT THAT...

LIKE YOUR *POLICEMONKS* SAY--PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A *SHOCK!*

DR. DOOM!

BY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTOROOK!

DOOM-MONKEY HURT HULK ONCE! HULK SMASH DOOM-MONKEY NOW!

I HARDLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME FOR RETRIBUTION, HULK.

CALM YOURSELF. RELAX AS YOU GAZE INTO THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOOKOOK...

Uhhh...

GREAT GOODALL! IT... IT WASN'T A DREAM, WAS IT?

NONE OF IT. SORRY, DOC.

THANKS, CLEOOK. WAS GONNA ASK YOU TO DO THAT, ANYWAY. WE'RE GONNA NEED DOC BANANNER'S BRAINS PRETTY SOON...

Bah! THAT GREEN-FURRED FOOL POSED NO THREAT TO ME! AND AS FOR INTELLIGENCE...

YOU BETTER START TALKING, FURRY--OR I'M GOING TO THINK THE HULK HAD THE RIGHT IDEA!

OKAY. YOU ALL HAD THE *VISION*, RIGHT?

OBVIOUSLY.

SIMIANS FIGHTING SOME SORT OF... *CREATURES* I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

HUMANS.

MORE THAN THAT-- *ZOMBIES.*

BECAUSE JUST BEING HUMAN ISN'T BAD ENOUGH...

AND IT GETS *WORSE.*

WHAT YOU SAW *COULD HAPPEN*--IT'S ONE *POSSIBLE FUTURE.* ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT THE *PRIME EIGHT* DOES.

AND JUST SO WE'RE *CRYSTAL* ON THIS-- ZOMBIES EAT *LIVING FLESH.* IF THEY BITE YOU AND *DON'T* CHOW DOWN, *YOU* BECOME A ZOMBIE, TOO.

EAT AND *REPEAT.*

BY GALACTOOK'S *HERALDS*-- IT'S THE *OPPOSITE* OF A COSMIC CIRCLE OF LIFE-- IT'S AN EVER-EXPANDING *CIRCLE OF DEATH!*

UM, I HAVE A QUESTION--WHERE DID THE VISIONS *COME* FROM? WHO *GAVE* THEM TO US?

NO IDEA. ALL THE HISTORY-VIDS SAY IS *WHEN* IT HAPPENED. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE *NOW.*

ONLY OTHER THING I KNOW IS ONE OF YOU IS SO *PIVOTAL* IN UPCOMING EVENTS-- THAT PRIMATE MUST BE PROTECTED AT *ALL COSTS.*

AND WHO WOULD *THAT* BE?

COME NOW, PROFESSOR--WHY ELSE WOULD I CONSENT TO EVEN *BE* HERE?

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE PULLING MY TAIL!

WISH I WERE-- BUT THE CHRONO-SIMIANS SAY THE *WORST* POSSIBLE TIME LINE IS ONE WHERE *DOOM* FALLS IN WITH THE ZOMBIES.

YOU MEAN *BECOMES* A ZOMBIE?

NONE OF THE *MYSTIC* REALMS WOULD BE SAFE!

NOR THE VAST REACHES OF *SPACE!*

THEN I'M SURE YOU'LL ALL BE GLAD TO LEARN I HAVE *NO DESIRE* TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE *UNDEAD.*

IMAGINE MY *RELIEF* KNOWING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL SACRIFICE YOUR *OWN* LIFE IN ORDER TO SAVE *MINE.*

OR WE COULD JUST KILL DOOM *NOW*--AN *EXCELLENT* SUGGESTION, BLACK BOLT.

NO CAN DO. DOOM'S A **MAJOR PLAYER** IN THE DIVERGENCE. HE **HAS** TO BE THERE.

ANOTHER--AND INFINITELY **SUPERIOR**-- OPTION WOULD BE TO INSURE MY SURVIVAL BY INCREASING MY **POWER.**

FOR INSTANCE, IF I WERE TO ADD THE COSMIC ABILITIES OF THE **SILVERBACK SURFER** TO MY OWN.

I HAPPEN TO HAVE A **DEVICE** WHICH COULD ACCOMPLISH JUST THAT, BACK IN **LATVERIAPE.**

AND EXACTLY **WHY** DO YOU HAVE A DEVICE LIKE THAT, DOOM?

IT SEEMED LIKE A **GOOD IDEA** AT THE TIME, IRON MANDRILL.

AND **STILL DOES,** I MUST SAY.

THIS RUBS MY FUR THE **WRONG WAY!** WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE MOST **EVIL APE** IN THE UNIVERSE--AT THE SAY-SO OF SOME FUNKY-MONKEY FROM THE **FUTURE?** EVEN IF WE GET **KILLED**--OR **WORSE?**

SMELLS ALL **WET** TO ME! I **KNOW** I DON'T TRUST DOOM-- AND **STILL DON'T KNOW** WHY I SHOULD TRUST **HER!**

BECAUSE SHE'S **CORRECT.**

I FEEL A TEAR IN **REALITY'S FABRIC**--A **GASH** IN ITS DIMENSIONAL **BORDER.** NOT SIMPLY AN **INVASION**--AN **INFECTION!**

THEY'RE NOT **COMING...**

KRAAKKK!

"...THEY'RE HERE!"

CHOMP! SHLOMP! MMM! WHAT DID THIS TALKING MONKEY SAY HIS NAME WAS?

THINK IT WAS SLUUP! MARVEL CHIMP!

CHIMP? TASTES LIKE CHICKEN TO ME!

HEH HEH! GLURK!

TOO BAD THOSE OTHER TWO GOT AWAY KLUHP! SMEK! BUT WE'LL CATCH THEM LATER! Heh!

NO! THIS... THIS IS WRONG!

WE MUST RESIST! RESIST THE SINS OF THE FLESH...

...THE SWEET, SUCCULENT FLESH! SO TENDER! SO--

OH, GOD HELP ME--!

FRZZAKK

AND THEY SAY PRAYERS ARE NEVER ANSWERED...

WHO INVITED CAPTAIN RECTITUDE ANYWAY?

MORE LIKE CAPTAIN RECTUM...

I'D JUST LIKE TO THANK WHOEVER TOOK HIM OUT OF OUR MISERY! WERE THOSE YOUR REPULSOR RAYS, IRON MAN?

NO. NOT IRON "MAN."

YES. BY ALL MEANS *TALK* TO THEM.

OR...

ATTACK, PRIME EIGHT! DESTROY THEM!

TEAR THEM APART!

TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY *MOUTH.*

MUST HAVE BEEN WHILE I WAS *EATING* YOU--!

BY THE *HAIRY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH,* YOU SHALL TOUCH DOOM *NOT!*

EXCELLENT, CLEOOK! MAKE THEM *RUE* THE DAY THEY RUFFLED THE FUR OF *DOOM!*

LISTEN TO ME, TONY! IT'S LIKE *SCOTCH*--YOU ACQUIRE A *TASTE* FOR IT! AND *INTOXICATING--!*

I'D RATHER DIE FIRST!

WELL, THAT *IS* HOW IT WORKS, ISN'T IT...

BZZZZ!

...WASP?

NGH--!

C'MON! I CAN TAKE ALL THREE OF YOU BEFORE BREAKFAST!

FOR BREAKFAST, EVEN!

LEAVE BLACK BOLT TO ME, WOLVERINE! AS A MOCKERY OF MY OWN MUTE MONARCH, IT IS ONLY RIGHT!

LIVING MY LIFE IN WATERY SOLITUDE, I FELT HALF A MAN-- HALF AN INHUMAN-- BUT NOW--

NOW THAT FEELING SHALL BE JUSTIFIED.

Hey--!

SKLUNTCH!

GET... OUT!

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT HOW MANY VOLTS I RELEASED INSIDE MY HELMET, BUT IT BUG-ZAPPED THE WASP AWAY.

'THOUGH IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T DO ME ANY GOOD...

IF YOU HURT HER, I'LL KILL YOU!

NOT THAT SHE CAN BE HURT...

...AND NOT THAT I WON'T KILL YOU ANY-WAY, BUT--

STAY, UM... STAY *AWAY* FROM HIM, YOU CADAVEROUS KING KONG!

BOOM!

A TARGET THAT *BIG* AND YOU *MISS?*

AM I THE ONLY *ONE WHO* UNDERSTANDS *SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST?!*

I THINK IT WORKS A LITTLE SOMETHING LIKE *THIS!*

SHRENNK

HEY, EVERYONE-- I JUST POPPED OPEN A CAN OF *MONKEY-SPAM!*

DIG IN!

RRAAHHG--!

MY *WEAPONRY-- UNRESPONSIVE!*

PRIME EIGHT--TO MY SIDE! PROTECT ME FROM THESE HAIRLESS *HORRORS!*

I MUST NOT BECOME *ONE* OF THEM, YOU *THICK-SKULLED SIMIANS!* I MUST NOT--

AND YOU *WON'T.* NOT IF THEY EAT EVERY *LAST BIT* OF YOU...

NICE TRICK, CHUCK! THEY REALLY THINK THEY'RE EATING DOOM?

YES. THEIR DECAYING MINDS DON'T OPERATE NORMALLY, SO MY MENTAL CONTROL ISN'T AS DEEP, BUT IT WILL TAKE THEM MUCH MORE TIME THAN USUAL TO CONSUME DOOM.

AS MUCH TIME AS WE NEED TO... FINISH THEM.

HULK SMASH ROTTEN, HAIRLESS MONKEYS?

NO! IF...IF THEY STAY HERE--EVEN THEIR REMAINS--OTHERS LIKE THEM MIGHT TRACE THEIR ENERGY SIGNATURES.

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO SEND THEM BACK... AS MANY OF THEM AND AS MANY PIECES OF THEM AS POSSIBLE... TO MINIMIZE OUR RISK.

IN MY LAB, THERE'S--

ONE MOMENT, IRON MANDRILL. ABOUT US, THERE ARE STILL SUB-ATOMIC REMNANTS OF THE PORTAL THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE.

I'M SURROUNDED BY STICK-AGE SIMIANS!

YOU HAVE A GAMMA BOMB RIGHT HERE! IF THE SURFER SIPHONS OFF THE HULK'S ENERGY AND CHANNELS IT INTO THE PARTICLES--

MY POWER COSMIC CAN GATHER THESE PARTICLES, COALESCE THEM...

...BUT WE WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH RAW FORCE REMAINING TO BRIDGE THE DIMENSIONAL VOID.

Hrgh? IS THAT DOOM'S VOICE?

THEN WHAT ARE WE EATING?

NOTHING!

DAMN! THAT REALLY MAKES ME... HUNGRY!

SO MUCH FOR *MENTAL ILLUSION*...

KINDA WISH YOU'D STAYED *SHUT UP*, DOC!

HULK *SMASH!*

NO, MY EMERALD ALLY--YOU HAVE *MORE IMPORTANT* WORK THIS DAY. YOU MUST HELP ME...

...LINK TWO WORLDS!

VORTEX! EVERYONE GRAB ONTO SOME SORT OF *LIFE-VINE!*

THERE ARE *EASIER* WAYS...

...IF THE WINDS PREFERRED TO PURGE ONLY THE *PUTRID*, FOR INSTANCE, AND PASSED OVER THE *PRIME EIGHT!*

SLICK AS A *BANANA PEEL*, GORILLAFRIEND!

NO! MY ARMS HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST MIGHTY *CURRENTS!* MY MUSCLES--TEMPERED BY THE OCEANS' *DEPTHS!* MY GRIP--EQUAL TO THE CRUSHING PRESSURE OF THE BLACK *ABYSS!*

I SHALL NOT BE SWEPT AWAY SO *EASILY!*

I SHALL *STAY!* I SHALL *FEAST!*

GO.

BKOOOMP

:KOFF!: DID WE--?
OF COURSE.
HOW COULD WE NOT, WITH ME AS LEADER?
TOO BAD ALL GOOD THINGS... COME TO AN END.
THIS ONE TIME...I'LL LET YOU WALK AWAY, DOOM.
SAYS THE SIMIAN WITH BARELY ENOUGH ENERGY IN HIS ARMOR TO STAND UPRIGHT.
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU COULD BEAT ME INTO SUBMISSION?
I BELIEVE HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE YOU WOULD NEED TO CONTEND WITH, DOCTOR.
YOU SEEMED QUITE INTERESTED IN MY POWER COSMIC EARLIER. WOULD YOU CARE FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS FULL ABILITIES?

BAH! I TIRE OF THIS OVERPOWERING STENCH!

WALLOW IN THE ROT AND RUIN IF YOU WANT--DOOM SHALL NOT!

THANK DORMAMOOK HE WASN'T BITTEN...

BUT WHO WAS?

SOMEONE WAS, RIGHT? SOMEONE HAD TO BE!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE--

WAIT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- SOMEONE HAD TO BE BITTEN?

SHE MEANS SHE CAME BACK IN TIME TO GUARANTEE THERE IS A ZOMBIE INFESTATION-- OTHERWISE HER FUTURE WON'T HAPPEN!

DOESN'T TAKE A MIND-READER TO FIGURE THAT OUT...

YEAH, OKAY-- CHUCK'S RIGHT.

LIKE I SAID, THIS IS A DIVERGENT POINT IN THE TIME-STREAM. IT CAN'T BREAK UP INTO A LOT OF DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS-- DIFFERENT REALITIES-- IT CAN ONLY GO ONE WAY.

AND THE ONLY WAY IT GOES MY WAY IS IF SOMEONE GETS BIT... AND THEN A LOT OF SOMEONES GET BIT!

IT'LL BE *BAD*-- THAT'S WHY WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT WENT WRONG WHEN--BUT THEN IT GETS *BETTER*, TRUST ME. BITTER BERRIES, I KNOW, BUT...

BUT WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS WHICH OF YOU *LUCKY MONKEYS* IS GONNA MAKE MY *DAY*?

IS GONNA MAKE *ALL* MY DAYS...

WELL, I'LL BE A MONKEY'S...

NOW I KNOW WHY THOSE CHRONO-SIMIANS SAID I WAS THE ONLY ONE COULD *DO* THIS JOB! MUST'VE KNOWN IT WAS ME *ALL ALONG*...

DON'T FEEL SO GOOD... *DIZZY*...

MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER IF...IF...

...I HAD SOMETHING TO EAT!

FRZZZAKK

WELL...I BELIEVE WE KNOW WHICH WAY THE DIVERGENCE IS GOING *NOW.*

BUT... THAT MAKES *NO SENSE!*

SINCE FURRY WAS HERE HER FUTURE *HAS* TO EXIST OR...OR THERE'D BE A *TIME PARADOX! TEMPORAL CHAOS!*

OR MAYBE SHE WAS JUST PLAIN WRONG.

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH TIME TRAVEL-- THINGS NEVER REALLY ADD UP.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME-- JUST SAVED THE WORLD, FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING...

...AND THERE'S A LUSCIOUS LADY WAITING FOR ME BACK HOME!

FIVE DAYS LATER.

STARK

HARD AT WORK SO EARLY, SIR? VERY GOOD.

AND MISS OOKTOBER, FROM PLAYCHIMP?

GONE.

OF COURSE. I DOUBT SHE'D BE MUCH USE TO YOU IN THE **LABORATORY**, AFTER ALL.

SHOULD I ARRANGE ANOTHER... **DIVERSION** FOR THIS EVENING? I MUST SAY YOU'VE BEEN RATHER **INSATIABLE** LATELY.

YOU KNOW ME, JARVIS--**WORK** HARD, **PLAY** HARD.

INDEED, SIR. AS IT HAPPENS, MS. **HOWLEE BARRY** HAS BEEN ASKING AFTER YOU.

NAMES MEAN **NOTHING**...

HOLLYWOOD **STARLET**, ONE OF THE **JAMES BONZO** GIRLS, PORTRAYED **STORM** IN THE **X-SIMIAN** MOVIES...

OH, YES! LITHE, SUPPLE... **EXCELLENT!**

I HAVE TO SAY, JARVIS...

...YOU CERTAINLY KNOW MY TASTE IN *FEMALES!*

AND THE *THOUGHT* OF IT MAKES MY *MOUTH WATER.*

LUCKILY, THERE'S STILL A LITTLE OF *OOKTOBER* LEFT.

I DO SO *LOVE* THE LADIES...

...AND I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE WHO I AM *TODAY* WITHOUT *ONE* LITTLE LADY IN *PARTICULAR*...

BZZZZZ!

NGH--!

...THE *WASP!*

COZY! BUT THEN, I ALWAYS DID LIKE *FUR COATS!*

AND IF YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE *OUR* IRON MAN, THE ONLY THING YOU LIKE BETTER THAN A GIRL SAYING *SWEET NOTHINGS* IN YOUR EAR...

...IS A GIRL *NIBBLING* ON IT!

CHOMP!

Hmm... GAMEY.

FROM THE VERY FIRST MOMENT I HAD THE *VISION*, I KNEW I'D BECOME A *ZOMBIE*. I COULD FEEL THE *NEED*--THE RAVENOUS *HUNGER*...

TO THINK I TRIED TO *PREVENT* THAT FROM HAPPENING--EVEN CONSIDERED LETTING THE HULK *KILL* ME WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE!

BUT THE *WASP* OPENED MY EYES. I SEE EVERYTHING SO MUCH MORE *CLEARLY* NOW!

KILL OR BE KILLED! EAT OR BE EATEN! IT'S SO *SIMPLE*--SO *PURE!*

IT'S THE WAY SIMIANS ARE *SUPPOSED* TO BE! *SHOULD* BE!

WILL BE-- *SOON!*

ONE LAST, SMALL ITEM, SIR. THERE'S A...SMELL.

I UNDERSTAND YOU REQUIRE **PRIVACY**, BUT IF YOU COULD REACTIVATE THE LAB'S SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR ONLY A **SHORT** TIME, I'M CERTAIN I COULD LOCATE THE--

NO! IT'S PROBABLY JUST A...***DEAD RAT*** IN AN AIR DUCT.

WE CAN...WE CAN DEAL WITH IT WHEN I'M ***DONE.***

AS YOU WISH, SIR. BUT IF I MAY BE SO BOLD--WHAT IS IT THAT'S **CONSUMED** YOU SO?

YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS LATEST PROJECT LIKE A DOG WITH A **BONE!**

IT'S ONLY THE MOST **IMPORTANT** THING I'VE EVER WORKED ON, JARVIS. SOMETHING THAT'LL CHANGE OUR WORLD **FOREVER...**

I'M REBUILDING THE **DIMENSIONAL PORTAL!**

IT'S NEARLY **FINISHED**--BUT DON'T TELL **ANYONE**. I WANT IT TO BE A **SURPRISE!**

THE BIGGEST SURPRISE BEING ***THIS*** PORTAL WON'T OPEN TO THE ***HUMAN*** UNIVERSE--BUT TO THE ***ZOMBIE WORLD.***

AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE ONLY DIMENSION THIS ***BIO-SAMPLE*** WILL KEY ONTO.

TOO BAD ABOUT ***FURRY***--BUT THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ***ONE*** ZOMBIE KING OF THE JUNGLE HERE.

MUST THANK THE ZOMBIE ***TRITON*** FOR GIVING ME A ***HAND.***

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, HER FUTURE ***WILL*** HAPPEN. THE VISION WE ALL HAD ***WILL*** COME TRUE.

THE HUMAN ZOMBIES WILL COME ***THROUGH*** THE DIMENSIONAL DOOR, ***BOW DOWN*** BEFORE ME, ACCEPT ME AS ***ALPHA...***

...AND THEN WE'LL DO LUNCH!

THE END--?

YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- THE ARMORED DEMIGOD KNOWN AS *THE LOW EVOLUTIONARY*,
- THE BIG-HEADED SMART PERSON FROM THE FUTURE, AND
- THE APE IN BLUE SHORTS

--ARE *ALL CHARLES DARWIN*, TRAPPED IN THE PRESENT-DAY *APE-IVERSE* AND SPLIT INTO *THREE DIFFERENTLY-EVOLVED CREATURES!*

ABOMINATION! YOUR VERY *BEING* SPEWS ON THE NOTION OF EVOLUTION! I DENY YOUR EVOLUTION-FILTHYING EXISTENCE!

BUT I *AM YOU!* THUS, THAT SENTIMENT COULD NOT BE MORE *COUNTER*-EVOLUTIONARY! THE *YOU* PART OF ME CLEARLY KNOWS *NOTHING!*

AWWW! NOW WHAT?

Darwin's Revenge

TOM PEYER WRITER
CHAD HARDIN PENCILER
ROB CAMPANELLA INKER
SOTOCOLOR COLORIST
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER
TOM BRENNAN EDITOR
STEPHEN WACKER SUPERVISING EDITOR

COME ON, SUE! WE'VE GOT TO HELP!

HELP WHO? DIDN'T YOU HEAR THEM? THEY'RE BOTH DARWIN!

WHICH SIDE ARE WE ON?

GRAAARH!

BEFORE I RID THE WORLD OF YOU--

--I SHALL CONFISCATE THE SUPER-FRUITS OF YOUR HYPER-INTELLECT! FOR I HAVE USE OF--

RAAAR!

WHOK

=HUNNNH!=

The Ancient One's Sanctum, Human Universe, 1985

HUH. I DIDN'T KNOW THIS...

IF YOU STOP TO READ EVERYTHING WE WILL NEVER GET THESE TALISMANS SORTED.

BUT YOU SENT CHARLES DARWIN TO THE PRESENT-DAY APE UNIVERSE IN 1852?

AH! I FORGOT TO BRING HIM HOME!

MALODOROUS UR-MAN!

I SHALL EXPUNGE YOU FIRST!

GRAAAH--

--AAAAH! WHAT?

APE? I WAS AN APE?

AND SO YOU REMAIN--

FLING

--BY COMPARISON TO ME. HOW DEFTLY I MOLD MY FUTURE-SELF'S TAWDRY CONTRAPTIONS INTO A SINGLE SLEEK APPARATUS DESIGNED TO--

RAAAAH!

KAAAM?

KUUUK

SO THIS IS THE FUTURE OF MAN?

THE MEREST ATOM OF OPPOSITION, SUCH AS I HAVE PROVIDED, DRIVES YOU TO SNARL LIKE AN ANIMAL AND STRIKE YOUR FELLOWS WITH STICKS?

THEN I MUST SAY I PREFER THE SOCIETY OF HOMO SAPIENS.

DARWIN--?

THIS CANNOT BE. IT MUSTN'T. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE OF US. OF ME.

THEN DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES WHICH OF YOU SHALL LIVE--

--FOR I MUST BRAVE THE VERY COSMOS TO GREET MY ULTIMATE DESTINY--

OFLING

FEAR

--AS A HUMBLE ENGINEER OF CREATION--

--AND A MERE SEEDER OF WORLDS--

THE LOW EVOLUTIONARY!

WAIT! DON'T--

--DON'T LEAVE US.

HE WAS THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD CONCEIVABLY UNDO OUR FANTASTIC DILEMMA. WHERE SHALL WE TURN?

PERHAPS WE COULD SUMMON L-OOK-I OR THE ANCIENT ONE AND--

DARWIN! NO!

GONE... AND I *RECOGNIZE* THAT STRANGE LIGHT AS THE *ANCIENT ONE'S.* I ESPIED IT WHEN HE *DISPATCHED* ME HERE.

HE HAS DELIVERED MY *OTHER* SELF BACK TO OUR OWN TIME AND PLACE, WHICH MEANS--

--THERE WILL BE NO RESCUE FOR *ME* FROM THIS MAD GLOBE OF *APES.* NOT *EVER.*

CHARLES...I KNOW HOW YOU *FEEL.* IT'S HARD FOR *ME,* TOO, SOMETIMES. BUT, WE'RE SO *ALIKE,* MAYBE WE COULD *HELP* EACH OTHER.

DO YOU MEAN--?

NO.

OH.

THE END...

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA